

# Wild

AUSTRALIA'S WILDERNESS ADVENTURE MAGAZINE

www.wild.com.au

## Federation Peak

Blue Mountains pioneer

Sex in the bush  
Kakadu

**GREAT WALKS:**

### Nepal

Brigitte & Jon Muir walk the salt lakes

Remote alpine peak

**COMPREHENSIVE GEAR SURVEYS:**

### Tents



Global Positioning Systems

Multifunction tools

**TRACK NOTES:**

Mother Woila, NSW  
Mt Darling, Vic

Spring  
(October–December) 2000, no 78  
\$7.99 incl GST



ISSN 1030-469X

04



Print Post Approved P342066/000001



*Italian made  
trekking footwear.*



AKU Tiaga  
Gore-Tex™  
waterproof  
lining.  
Vibram™  
shock  
absorbing  
sole.

PHONE  
1800 811 312



It's stupidly  
**COLD**  
outside



and you

**LOVE** it.



PHONE  
1800 811 312  
FOR YOUR NEAREST  
STOCKIST



**MOUNTAIN  
HARD  
WEAR**



TENTS • SLEEPING SYSTEMS • OUTERWEAR •  
MOUNTAINWEAR





# imagine a sleeping bag ...

... that packs so small you can hold it in the palm of your hand...

... then imagine it weighs only 750g and can keep you snug & warm even at a low -5°C...

... then further imagine it is machine washable, but quick drying, yet able to keep you warm even when damp or wet...

... and can you imagine a bag where the filling is 'profiled' and has no quilting or stitching lines that create cold spots like other bags?

Well you can when it's the **SNUGPAK 'Merlin' Softie 3**. One of several models from Europe's best-selling synthetic sleeping bags now in Australia. The **SNUGPAK** filling is unique. Developed in the heart of Europe's skiwear market and available only to **SNUGPAK**, it is ultra-light but beautifully warm, with a 'slippery feel' and softness that belies its man-made origin. The 'profiled' Softie filling is always able to regain its full loft, trapping more air and retaining more body warmth. The **'Merlin' Softie 3** has an extra layer of aerospace metallised fabric called 'ReflectaTherm' that reflects back 15% more body warmth without extra weight. To complete the best 'weight-for-warmth-for-packed-size' ratio bag you can buy, we only use the finest British made fabrics to line our bags. The inner liner is Pertex (like human skin) which allows perspiration out, but prevents water coming in. The outer is rip-stop Paratex, a high performance man-made parachute silk, with the luxuriously soft and slippery feel of real silk. If you want to travel light and small and have a bag that will keep you warm without the weight, one that can be machine washed and quickly dried and quality made in the UK, then you must see one of our **SNUGPAK** dealers. Or visit us on the Web - <http://www.snugpak.com>

## OTHER SNUGPAK BAGS NOW IN AUSTRALIA

**'MERLIN' Softie 3**  
Total weight 750g  
Temp: -5° to -5°C  
RRP \$295

**Snugpak**  
ready to take on the world

**'TRAVELPAK' 500**  
Total weight 500g  
Temp: indoor use  
RRP \$189

**'KESTREL' Softie 6**  
Total weight 1100g  
Temp: 0° to -5°C  
RRP \$335

**'HAWK' Softie 9**  
Total weight 1400g  
Temp: -5° to -10°C  
RRP \$395

**'HARRIER' Softie 10**  
Total weight 1600g  
Temp: -7° to -12°C  
RRP \$445

Check below for your nearest dealer or contact our Australian distributor

**Macson Trading Company Pty Ltd. Tel [03] 9489 9766 Fax [03] 9481 5368 Email info@macson.com.au**

**NEW:** SYDNEY The Adventure Shop 9261 1959; Camp for Less 9261 3827. **BONDI JNC** Adventure Shop 9389 8707. **CASTLE HILL** Camping World 9894 7870. **GILLARDY** Larry Adler 9971 8711. **EASTWOOD** Eastwood Camping 9858 3833. **NEUTRAL BAY** Adventure Shop 9953 9340. **PARRAMATTA** Surplus City 9633 5411. **WEST RYDE** Alpport 9858 8844. **ALBURY** Adventure Camping 6021 6200. **CAMPBELLTOWN** Campbelltown Disposals 4628 3522. **VIC:** MELBOURNE City Centre Disposals 9670 4797. **Pinnacle Outdoors** 9642 2855. **Platypus Outdoors** 9602 4303. **BOX HILL** Paddy Pallin 9898 8596. **CHADSTONE** Bakpakka 9569 7061. **FERNTREE GULLY** Overland Disposals 9758 9838. **GREENSBROUGH** Outdoor World 9434 2272. **HEATHMONT** Ajays 9729 7844. **RINGWOOD** Paddy Pallin 9879 1544. **BALLARAT** Snowgum 5331 3672. **BAIRNSDALE** Bairnsdale Camping 5153 1497. **BENDIGO** Outbound Camping 5443 0070. **GEELENG** Snowgum 5221 6618. **HALLS G** Grampians Adventure 5356 4556. **PAKENHAM** Get Lost Camping 5941 1293. **SALE** Alpine Country 5144 7505. **TRARALGON** Mountain Designs 5174 4877. **ACT:** BELCONNEN Belconnen Camping 6253 2699. **FYSHWICK** Jurkiewicz Adventure Sports 6280 6033. **QLD:** BRISBANE Globe Trekker 3221 4478. **ENOGGERA** Aust Camping Olmaster 3855 1525. **FORTITUDE VALLEY** K2 Base Camp 3854 1340. **Silk Road** 3257 4177. **AIRLIE BEACH** It's Extreme 4948 2355. **CAIRNS** It's Extreme 4051 0344. **TOWNSVILLE** Adventure Camping 4775 6116. **SA:** ADELAIDE Annapurna 8223 4633. **Flinders** Camping 8223 1913. **KESWICK** Snowy's Outdoors 8351 2111. **ST.MARY'S** Boots Great Outdoors 8277 7789. **WA:** PERTH Wellington Surplus 9325 4797. **MIDLAND** Midland Disposals 9274 5900. **VICTORIA PARK** Carrigis 9361 9321. **KALGOORLIE** Kalgoorlie Camping 9021 3566. **TAS:** HOBART Snowgum 6234 7877. **LAUNCESTON** Alligoods 6331 3644. **NT:** DARWIN Adventure Equipment 8941 0019; NT General Store 8991 8242; Snowgum 8941 7370

Trade accounts for some areas still available. Contact Macson Trading Co Tel [03] 9489 9766

## Departments

### 5 Editorial

Waving goodbye to wilderness

### 9 Wildfire

Letters to the Editor

### 15 Info



Including miniprofile on our top multisport athlete Anthony Evans

### 17 Wild Diary

What's on, and when

### 21 The Wild Life



The truth about mating and mateship in the bush, by Quentin Chester

### 39 Folio



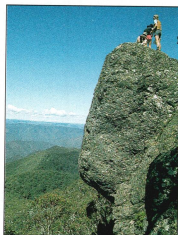
Andrew Cox discovers Kakadu

### 58 Track Notes



Rob Jung describes a way to Mother Woila, New South Wales

### 64 Track Notes



John Chapman visits Mt Darling and the historical Wonnangatta valley in the Victorian Alps

### 69 Gear Survey

Tents for bushwalking, by John Chapman



### 75 Field Test

Global Positioning Systems, by John Poppins



### 81 Equipment

Darren Green reviews multifunction tools



### 85 Green Pages

Including proposals for a mine within South Australia's Gammon Ranges National Park

### 89 Reviews

Including a significant book on our battles for the bush

### 96 Wild Shot



Solid rock...or heavy metal?

**Wild**  
ESTABLISHED 1981

Spring  
(October–December)  
2000,  
issue 78  
\$7.99\* incl GST

\* Maximum Australian recommended retail price only

Cover Martin Hawes stands before the North-west Face of one of Australia's most sought-after summits: Federation Peak, South-west Tasmania. (See articles starting on page 26.)  
Grant Dixon

#### WARNING

The activities covered in this magazine are dangerous. Undertaking them without proper training, experience, skill, regard to safety, and equipment could result in serious injury or death.



Foundation member of



The Outdoors Industry  
Giving Back to the Outdoors



# Features

## 26 Federation Peak

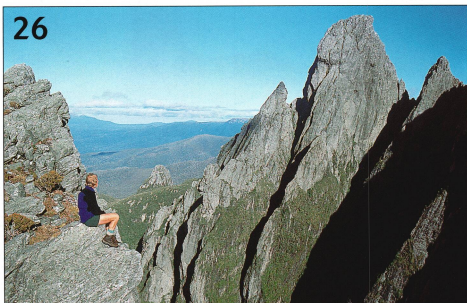
A *Wild* feature on Tasmania's most sought-after summit

### Getting Dad up Federation

Doug Johnson recalls a family operation akin to raising the *Titanic* to get him atop Federation Peak

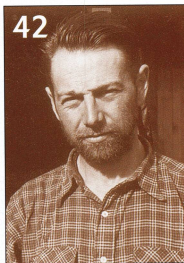
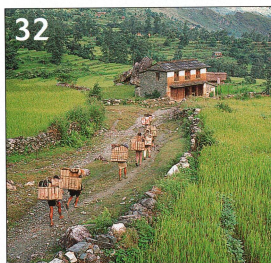
### A Very Foolish Undertaking

Jolyon Blazey saves his reputation by making the hairy ascent of Federation Peak



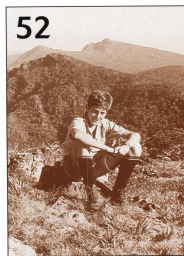
## 32 Footloose in the Himalayan 'Foothills'

Gloria Keil chuckles her way to Annapurna Base Camp on a classic tea-house trek



## 42 Exploring Jim Barrett

Sandy Holmes introduces this humble Blue Mountains pioneer and historian



## 46 Sirens and Salt Lakes

Greg Pritchard accompanies Australia's best-known 'adventure couple', Jon and Brigitte Muir, on a surreal Australian walk

## 52 Unfinished Business on Mt Tambo

After half a lifetime Chris Baxter comes full circle on this little-known Victorian Alpine outlier

Mobile.



Phone.



- Water Dust Shock resistant
- Flexible Shark Fin Antenna™
- Lots of Active Extras – The Ericsson R310s

Make yourself heard.

**ERICSSON** 



# Waving *goodbye* to wilderness

...is about all we seem willing to do about this unique, fast-disappearing resource

**THE EXTRACTION INDUSTRIES, PARTICULARLY logging and mining as well as cattle grazing, have long been seen as the arch destroyers of wilderness. While they have certainly contributed massively, and continue to contribute, to the degradation of wilderness, during the last decade they have been quietly usurped as the primary threat to such wilderness as remains.**

Ian Stapleton, the founder of Mittagundi and Wollangarra—unique outdoor-education centres in the Victorian Alps that have taught thousands of young people the value of a simpler lifestyle, and respect for the natural environment—described the problem well in a letter he wrote to me more than four years ago. (While his comments were about the Australian Alps, unfortunately they also apply to wilderness in general.)

Stapleton writes passionately of 'our own unique mountains, their immeasurable value and importance as a source of adventure, beauty, challenge and clear water; for the generations to come, and...trying to preserve what is left of them for those very reasons'. But, he continues, it is a 'sad story of compromise that has been the fate of our mountains, mostly during [the past] 25 years, and the frightening way they have been changed in that time'. And the cause of this lamentable state of affairs? 'I...find myself having less and less confidence in the increasingly political "National Park machine", which seems unable to stop itself from encouraging ever-increasing visitor numbers to places that so obviously cannot cope with the numbers—and type—of visitors that they are already being subjected to', concludes Stapleton. By way of example, he names a number of the most important, spectacular and fragile parts of the Alps, where four-wheel-drive tracks have been 'vastly upgraded...not by loggers or cattlemen or fire prevention, but by "the Parks" to cater for spiralling numbers of increasingly expensive and fragile four-wheel-drive super-cars'. Stapleton sees these 'armies of motorised visitors and day-tripping "ecotourists" who followed as being "a threat to the long-term well-being of the High Country".'

As one who has been active in the Alps and other wild places over the same period as Stapleton, I can only concur and add that while the Alps are being destroyed at a particularly alarming rate, this is the fate of every other wild place of which I am aware.

Six years ago I wrote (in the Editorial of *Wild* no 54): '...the environment has only escaped the frying-pan of wholesale development to perish in the fire of creeping development in the guise of ecotourism'. Conservationists, I suggested, had been too quick to suggest alternative commercial development to logging and the like.

The 'new economic order' with its philosophy of economic rationalism has reduced everything to its dollar value. Governments and their still-obese bureaucracies have become obsessed with turning our wild places into wilderness theme parks from which every last dollar might be wrung even if at

***'It's been death by a thousand cuts rather than instant annihilation by bulldozer and chain-saw.'***

the same time they are destroying wilderness and thus wringing the neck of the goose that lays the golden eggs. Governments and others hell-bent on profit realise that in this postindustrial age tourism is the most acceptable—and profitable—way to exploit wilderness. Private commercial development in National Parks has now become commonplace.

Roads are the greatest culprit in this wholesale destruction of wilderness. They bring motorised transport and excessive numbers of visitors (most of whom are unable, or unwilling, to accept wilderness on its own terms and thus require a substantial 'wilderness infrastructure'—an oxymoron if ever there was one!—of accommodation, sanitation, route marking, road smoothing, and an idiot-proof safety net; in short, a suburbanisation of the bush). In their wake follow other problems: litter, water pollution, erosion, thistles and blackberry infestations among them. Indeed, many of the rivers of north-east Victoria including that four-wheel-drive Mecca, the Wonnangatta, exhibit nearly all of them.

One of the problems has been the gradual, seemingly reasonable nature of this development: 'We're only upgrading an existing track', 'Of course I'd never think of taking it off-road', 'Everyone has a right to experience the

beauty of the bush, even paralysed ecogenarians who've never ventured further than their suburban shopping mall'. For the wilderness the result is the same—destruction. It's been death by a thousand cuts rather than instant annihilation by bulldozer and chain-saw.

But with population growth, urbanisation, increased leisure time and greater wealth, the pressures on wilderness are rapidly increasing.

Things are unlikely to change before enough people come to realise two facts:

1. Economic rationalism applied to wilderness is not only fast 'killing the golden goose' itself but in so doing has already begun to erode its economic benefits. (As Douglas Muecke put it in an article in the [defunct] *Republican*: 'Tourism, as now managed, is bad for tourism, on three counts: [First,] sites become unsightly...'; secondly, destinations are devalued by being made into consumables and, thirdly, "tourists object to other tourists".) In short, that this present attitude is based on greed, ignorance and short-sightedness.
  2. The concept of a 'right' to experience wilderness is arrant nonsense. In its most extreme form wilderness is accessible to only the very fittest, bravest and best prepared—after all, if it's accessible to everyone, it's not wilderness. I've visited more wilderness than some people, but readily accept that there are countless wilderness destinations which I am not qualified to visit.
- For a perspective on how rapidly we are destroying wilderness consider this analogy from Greenpeace: 'Your planet is 4,600 million years old...imagine it is a person 46 years of age...Dinosaurs and reptiles did not appear until one year ago, when the planet was 45...humans have been around for four hours...The industrial revolution began a minute ago. During those 60 seconds, humankind has made a rubbish tip of paradise.'
- Let's stop 'dumping' and start 'replanting' before it's too late.

## Wild people

After sweating over the management of your subscriptions in recent years, Ina Kristens is heading overseas for an extended break. We all thank her for her hard work and welcome her successor, Tony Cox. 🍷

Chris Baxter

IT'S NOT A STOVE. IT'S AN HEIRLOOM.

**Wild**  
A JOURNAL OF WILDERNESS & CONTEMPORARY NATURE

**Managing Director & Managing Editor**  
Chris Baxter

**Editor** Naomi Peters

**Editorial Coordinator** Rosie Johnson

**Sub-editors** Mary Harber, Lucy Monie

**Advertising** Brendon Eashold

**Manager** Peta Coats

**Subscriptions** Tony Cox

**Accounts** Fiona Sanders

**Design & production** Bruce Godden

**Consultants** Michael Collie, Brian Walters

**Contributing Editors**

Stephen Bunton *Caving*

John Chapman *Track notes*

Stephen Garnett *Natural history*

Michael Hampton *Cross-country skiing*

**Special Advisers**

Andrew Cox, Geoff Law,

Roger Lembit, David Noble

**Publisher** Wild Publications Pty Ltd

ABN 42 006 748 938

**Printing** The Craftsman Press Pty Ltd

**Colour reproduction** Scanagraphics Pty Ltd

**Distribution** Gordon and Gotch Limited

**Subscription rates** are currently \$31.95 for one year (four issues), \$57.20 for two years, or \$82.50 for three years, to addresses in Australia. For overseas addresses, the rates are \$56.95, \$108.00, and \$159.00, respectively. When moving, advise us immediately of your new and old addresses to avoid lost or delayed copies. Please also send your address sheet received with a copy of *Wild*.

**Advertising rates** are available on request.

Copy deadlines (advertising and editorial):

8 October (summer issue), 15 January

(autumn), 15 April (winter), 15 July (spring).

See below for publication dates.

**Contributions**, preferably well illustrated with slides, are welcome. *Guidelines for Contributors* are available on receipt of a stamped, addressed, business-size envelope. Whenever possible, written submissions should be typed on a three-and-a-half-inch floppy disk in either IBM or Apple format. Please specify which format, program and version number. Hard copy should also be supplied. If not on disk, submissions should be typed, double-spaced, on one side of sheets of A4 paper.

Please ensure that submissions are accompanied by an envelope and sufficient postage.

Names and addresses should be written on disks, manuscripts and photos. While every care is taken, no responsibility is accepted for material submitted. Articles represent the views of the authors, and not necessarily those of the publisher.

**Editorial, advertising, subscription, distribution and general correspondence to:**

Wild Publications Pty Ltd,

PO Box 415, Prahran, Vic 3181, Australia.

**Phone** (03) 9826 8482

**Fax** (03) 9826 3787

**Email** [wild@wild.com.au](mailto:wild@wild.com.au)

**Web site** <http://www.wild.com.au>

*Wild* is published quarterly in the middle of the month before cover date (cover dates: January–March, April–June, July–September, October–December) by Wild Publications Pty Ltd. The *Wild* logo (ISSN 1030-469X) is registered as a trade mark, and the use of the name is prohibited. All material copyright 2000 Wild Publications Pty Ltd. All rights reserved. No part of the contents of this publication may be reproduced without first obtaining the written consent of the publisher. *Wild* attempts to verify advertising, track notes, route descriptions, maps and other information, but cannot be held responsible for erroneous, incomplete or misleading material.

*Wild* is printed on Monza paper, which is made of 35 per cent pre-consumer waste and 15 per cent post-consumer waste that has been recycled and oxygen bleached. The cover has a water-based varnish (not an environmentally detrimental UV or plastic finish).



Let your brother inherit the china. Few things on this earth are as faithful as an MSR WhisperLite™. Which is why now, on its 15th birthday, the WhisperLite is the best-selling backcountry stove ever. If you were born at the time, you'll recall its component-based design seemed downright weird at first, yet it still sets the standard for light weight, heat efficiency, easy maintenance, snug packing and bombproof reliability. And these days you can add a whole family of MSR accessories as well.

If your parents don't own a WhisperLite, more's the pity. You'll actually have to buy one. But look on the bright side: some day your kids will thank you.

For more information, call: 1800 882 058

Or visit [www.msrcorp.com](http://www.msrcorp.com)





In the 1950s Paddy Pallin rucksacks were legendary among Australian bushwalkers for their quality, comfort and durability.

Some things never change.

Lid design ensures that the top pocket always sits away from the head

Made from highly waterproof 12 oz canvas, with 1000 denier nylon reinforcing

The internal alloy frame features a V shaped configuration, to enable a corresponding shoulder width adjustment, when torso length is changed

Seams are canvas bound to prevent water penetration

Shoulder strap and hip belt casing have wrinkle-free construction, to prevent formation of pressure points

Men's and women's models available

Contoured shoulder straps use a high density foam for extra cushioning and support

Streamlined sack shape allows natural arm swing and minimises snagging in scrub

Breathable Tactel® fabric is used on all contact areas, to disperse moisture

The unique front pocket can be accessed from the top, as well as via a front zipper

Layered hip belt construction promotes superior load transfer, while moulding softly around the hipbones for a comfortable carry

Seams are double-stitched for strength and stress areas are further reinforced

Wand pockets feature an integral gusset to enable the secure attachment of a wide range of equipment

70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Paddy Pallin

The new Paddy Pallin rucksacks. Still made in Australia for Australian conditions.

Call for a free catalogue: 1 800 805 398

STORE LOCATIONS | Sydney 507 Kent St | Miranda 527 Kingsway | Parramatta 74 Macquarie St  
Katoomba 166b Katoomba St | Canberra 11 Lonsdale St, Braddon | Jervis Bay 5/62 Owen St, Huskisson  
Jindabyne Kosciuszko Rd | Melbourne 360 Little Bourke St | Kingwood 88 Maroondah Hwy  
Box Hill 8 Market St | Adelaide 228 Rundle St | Hobart 76 Elizabeth St | Launceston 110 George St  
Fortitude Valley 138 Wickham St | Perth 884 Hay St | Mail Order Phone 1 800 805 398

Paddy Pallin

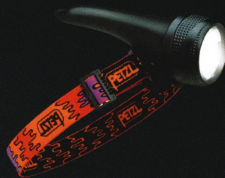
**IF YOU COULD SEE IN THE DARK,  
YOU WOULDN'T NEED A PETZL HEAD TORCH!**



**DUO**



**ZOOM**



**SAXO**



**MEGABELT**



**MICRO**



**SAXO AQUA**

Zoom	standard	30 m
Megabelt	halogen	100 m
Saxo	halogen	100 m
Saxo Aqua	krystan	50 m
	halogen	100 m
Duo	mini cde	20 m
	standard	100 m

		Alkaline			Rechargeable		
		standard	krystan	mini standard	standard	krystan	halogen
Zoom	ULP-TN-UV	100 100	1	5.5 40	ES500	70 80	23 20
Zoom v	LR6/AA	6 20	2 15	2 15	LR6/AA	2 15	13 15
Zoom v	LR6/AA	6 20	2 15	2 15	LR6/AA	2 15	13 15
Micro	LR6/AA	7 30	1 15	1 15	LR6/AA	1 15	13 15
Megabelt	LR14-C	20 100	1 15	1 15	LR14-C	1 15	13 15
Saxo	LR6/AA	6 20	2 15	2 15	LR6/AA	2 15	13 15
Saxo Aqua	LR6/AA	6 20	2 15	2 15	LR6/AA	2 15	13 15
Duo	LR6/AA	6 20	2 15	2 15	ES500	70 80	23 20

**PETZL**

Exclusively distributed in Australia by Spelean Pty Ltd.  
Ph. 1800 634 853 e-mail petzl@spelean.com.au  
<http://www.petzl.com/> or <http://www.spelean.com.au>  
Ask for your FREE catalogue!



# Solo by day

## ...and collaborative campside cooking at night

I ENJOYED YOUR ARTICLES IN *WILD* NO 76 on solitary walking: The Wild Life and 'Gone to the Dogs'. They led me to reflect on my own solo-walking venture of several years ago when I completed a five-day walk to Mt Bogong, Victoria. Unlike your authors, my lone walk was not born of any desire to escape from the babble of companions or to face the challenge of wild terrain alone (although these motives are certainly appealing). It had simply proved difficult to entice companions over the Christmas/New Year period...

What Quentin Chester and Brian Hawkins failed to mention about bushwalking by yourself is the grind of carrying gear ordinarily shared between two or more people. Being unaccustomed to walking alone, my pack was utterly laden with a family-sized Trangia stove kit, a two-man tent plus all the usual gear, fuel and food required for a five-day walk. As I ascended the unrelenting Staircase Spur I spent more than a little time contemplating the economies of scale and relative benefits of group versus solo walking.

Nor could your authors know of another potential annoyance—stemming from being young and female and bushwalking alone, which seems somehow to heighten the curiosity of other walkers about your capabilities and state of mental well-being.

Those minor details aside, the joy of unilateral decision making and the sense you get of being unusually connected with the natural environment—even when you are following well-defined tracks in popular/established walking areas—make solitary walking really pleasurable.

My independent adventure was, however, interrupted by a phenomenon I am sure many people travelling overseas have experienced—that of attracting other lone travellers. I had passed a rather unlikely-looking fellow also walking alone not long after leaving Mountain Creek car park on day one... After exchanging a few awkward words about our intended destinations, we said so long and I walked on ahead. I spent only a brief moment pondering why *he* was walking alone.

Later the next day I discovered that the same young man was camped not far from my own site near Cleve Cole Hut... The following evening he approached and we spoke in a little more depth about the book I was reading. He went on to suggest that we pool our provisions and share a meal. His offer caught me by surprise and although I intended to say no, good manners prevailed

and it was agreed. Despite initial misgivings about relinquishing my solitude and the wonderful little cooking space I had established among the snow gums, this unexpected offer proved both enjoyable and nutritionally beneficial... The next two days pretty much mirrored this one. Day walking alone and collaborative meal preparation in the evenings...

several weeks later, politely asked to borrow it back to read. In it I read Elizabeth Haines's letter telling of an article [Track Notes] and picture in issue 74 of Precipitous Bluff. I would very much like a copy of this issue...

My husband, Wade, walked extensively in South-west Tasmania—and other places. He made several trips to Precipitous Bluff during the two years we lived in Tasmania.

Wade did not return from his last trip to Precipitous Bluff—and we have never found his body, despite one of the biggest land and air searches Tasmania has seen.

I guess his story may join another article of searches and their not always successful endings, one day—as your article on Victorian searches did in issue 75. Needless to say, pictures of Precipitous Bluff are very precious to me and, as Elizabeth points out in her letter, are hard to come by.

Thank you for this—and for your magazine and all that goes into it. When my focus of life changes from the parental responsibilities of raising four children without Wade to one of sitting quietly reading, I shall subscribe to *Wild*—and there will also be more time to don the walking shoes and follow some of the walks detailed.

Margaret Butler  
Bugaldie, NSW



On the last morning I set off purposefully along the main ridge and back down to Mountain Creek. It was a pleasure to spend inordinate amounts of time setting up that perfect photo of snow-daisy clusters just above the tree line and not to be hurrying to catch up with an impatient party of fellow walkers. Nobody questioned my decision to eat lunch at 11 am and there was nothing to disturb an indulgent kip in the early-afternoon sun at Bivouac Hut. And, of course, by this stage, with food and fuel provisions mostly spent, the pack was greatly reduced in weight. Any thought of the first day's climbing effort was a hazy sort of memory.

And so I have fond recollections of a 'solo' walking experience and never pass up an offer of collaborative campside cooking.

Pamela Walpole  
Yackandandah, Vic  
(And, if you are out there, a big hello to Steve from St Kilda.)

### Precious Precipitous

I occasionally buy your magazine and enjoy it immensely when I do. I bought issue 75 as a birthday present for a friend and then,

### Gear conspiracy?!

In response to 'Gear conspiracy' in *Wildfire*, *Wild* no 76:

Surely quality walking boots must be considered as 'optional' as water-bottles and first aid kits—an essential item for personal comfort and safety. Financial constraints are often an issue, but the correct boot will protect the walker from both injury and fatigue. Hard days on rocks either on a mountainside or on a river-bank can quickly cause fatigue, and lead to injury. Boots also protect the ankle against knocks from many hard surfaces. A wisely selected boot (properly worn in) comes close to the most essential item in the bushwalker's arsenal and will offer a near lifetime of service if maintained... I'm pleased to remain educated about my options through *Wild* advertising and sincerely recommend investing in quality footwear.

Glenn Nelson  
Box Hill North, Vic

Readers' letters are welcome (with sender's full name and address for verification). A selection will be published in this column. Letters of less than 200 words are more likely to be printed. Write to the Editor, *Wild*, PO Box 415, Prahran, VIC 3181.

# Thermals that last a lifetime...

## POLAR<sup>TM</sup> STAT

100% POLYESTER

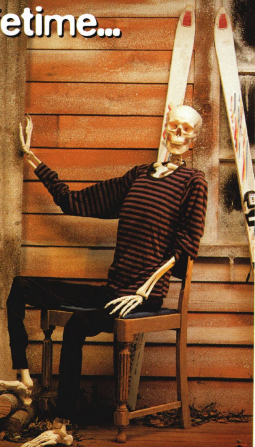
thermalwear with a reputation of very good quality, that may well outlive the wearer!

POLARSTAT is knitted from Dupont's *THERMASTAT* the fibre with the hollow core just like fur of a polar bear.



**THERMASTAT<sup>TM</sup>**  
BY DUPONT

STOCKIST ENQUIRIES  
ANSKO PTY LTD. Melbourne  
Phone 03-9-471 1500  
Fax 03-9-471 1500  
Email: [ansko@ansko.com.au](mailto:ansko@ansko.com.au)  
Web: [www.welt.co.nz](http://www.welt.co.nz)



## TRAPEZOID<sup>+</sup> LOFT POWER<sup>+</sup>

SO WHAT DOES  
THAT MEAN TO YOU?

Less weight, more warmth.

Our Everest sleeping bag is rated one of the world's best because of the loft power of its 100% white goose down. Basically, gram for gram, the down takes up more volume, trapping more air and therefore providing greater insulation.

Then, our unique trapezoid construction allows the down to loft unrestricted while minimising heat loss through down movement.

So you get more comfort with less weight. And that means it's lighter to carry to all those places where you most need the comfort of knowing you have the best.



model: EVEREST fill weight: 900g fill type: 700 LOFT POWER, 100% WHITE GOOSE DOWN total weight: 1.7kg (standard size)

construction: TRAPEZOID outer fabric: DRYLOFT from WL GORE features: BRAKE VALVE

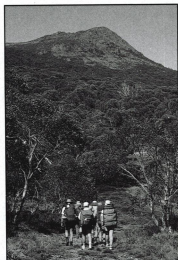
• esp case shaping • DRAFT TUBES • 2x3D neck muff • 5 dimensional • PILLOW SLIP • contoured hood •

**Fairydown**

# BUSHWALKING MAPS

**CMA**

Don't wander off aimlessly. Get a map from the Land Information Centre and you won't lose your cool in the bush.



**Topographic** maps are great for any activity: walking, XC skiing, canoeing, camping, climbing or simply driving. No matter what you want to do or where you want to go, we've got you covered. **Topographic maps are ready for use with GPS.**

Our maps can be obtained from many newsagents and bookshops, camping outlets, National Parks & Wildlife Service, or direct from the Land Information Centre.

For further information, and your free 'Catalogue of NSW Maps', write to Land Information Centre, PO Box 1559, Bathurst, NSW 2795, or phone (02) 6332 8124, fax (02) 6332 8299. Send \$2.00 for a copy of the CMA Map Reading Guide.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

# ALPINE GUIDES

*Guiding  
Ski Touring  
Instruction Courses*



Alpine Guides (Mount Cook) Ltd  
Bowen Drive (PO Box 20)  
Mount Cook 8770  
New Zealand

[www.alpineguides.co.nz](http://www.alpineguides.co.nz)

## VICTORIA

PEREGRINE TRAVEL CENTRE  
258 Lonsdale Street  
Melbourne, Vic. 3000  
Tel: (03) 9662 2700  
Fax: (03) 9662 2422

## NEW SOUTH WALES

PEREGRINE TRAVEL CENTRE  
Level 5, 3B York Street  
Sydney, NSW. 2000  
Tel: (02) 9290 2770  
Fax: (02) 9290 2155

## QUEENSLAND

PEREGRINE TRAVEL CENTRE  
1st Floor, Scout Outdoor Centre  
132 Wickham Street  
Fortitude Valley, QLD. 4006  
Tel: (07) 3854 1022  
Fax: (07) 3854 1079

[www.peregrine.net.au](http://www.peregrine.net.au)

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PEREGRINE TRAVEL CENTRE  
1st Floor, Scout Outdoor Centre  
192 Rundle Street  
Adelaide, S.A. 5000  
Tel: (08) 8223 5905  
Fax: (08) 8223 5347

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

PEREGRINE TRAVEL CENTRE  
1st Floor, 862 Hay Street  
Perth, W.A. 6000  
Tel: (08) 9321 1259  
Fax: (08) 9481 7375

*Peregrine*



## RECYCLED RECREATION

Australia's largest range of recycled adventure gear.

- ♻️ Tents
- ♻️ Backpacks
- ♻️ Sleeping Bags
- ♻️ Gore-Tex Clothing
- ♻️ Footwear
- ♻️ Second Hand Gear
- ♻️ Discontinued Lines
- ♻️ Factory Seconds
- ♻️ Demo Stock

96 Canterbury Road, Blackburn South VIC 3130  
Phone (03) 9894 4755 Fax (03) 9894 3178  
(Formerly ACS Adventure Sports)

110 Smith Street, Collingwood VIC 3066 **NOW OPEN**  
Phone (03) 9416 4066 Fax (03) 9416 4976  
[www.recycled-recreation.com.au](http://www.recycled-recreation.com.au)

## GO Siberian 800 Loft DOWN

**Rich White  
Signature Series**

- Best down in the world
- Hand-picked Siberian goose-down
- Hot-cut shells, for longer life
- Custom made
- Variety of unique designs
- Selection of fabrics and colours
- Deal direct and save

Phone (07) 5426 1007,  
fax (07) 5426 2643

[www.rwsigseries.com](http://www.rwsigseries.com)

### YOUR ONE STOP MAP SHOPS



MELBOURNE'S MOST  
COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF  
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

SPECIALTY BUSHWALKING  
MAPS

BUSHWALKING  
BOOKS AND GUIDES



COMPASSES,  
GPS RECEIVERS  
AND NAVIGATION ACCESSORIES

ON-SITE LAMINATING WHILE-U-WAIT

MAIL, PHONE, FAX, EMAIL ORDERS MOST WELCOME  
CREDIT CARDS & EFTPOS AVAILABLE

**At Two Handy Locations**

**Melbourne Map Centre**

738-740 WAVERLEY ROAD, CHADSTONE, VIC. 3148

Phone : (03) 9569-5472 Fax : (03) 9569-8000

259 HIGH STREET, KEW, VIC. 3101

Phone : (03) 9853-3526 Fax : (03) 9853-4888

email : [info@melmap.com.au](mailto:info@melmap.com.au) internet : [www.melmap.com.au](http://www.melmap.com.au)

made by  
the toughest people  
on earth

quality  
mountain clothing  
made in Nepal

DOWN JACKETS DOWN VESTS SALOPETTES  
TECHNICAL JACKETS SACHELS

call 0408 557 208 for enquiries [www.makalu.com.au](http://www.makalu.com.au)

# THERE'S A NEW TOP RUNG ON THE OLD EVOLUTIONARY LADDER



Quest

North Rim

Challenger

## TEVA WRAPTOR™ TECHNOLOGY

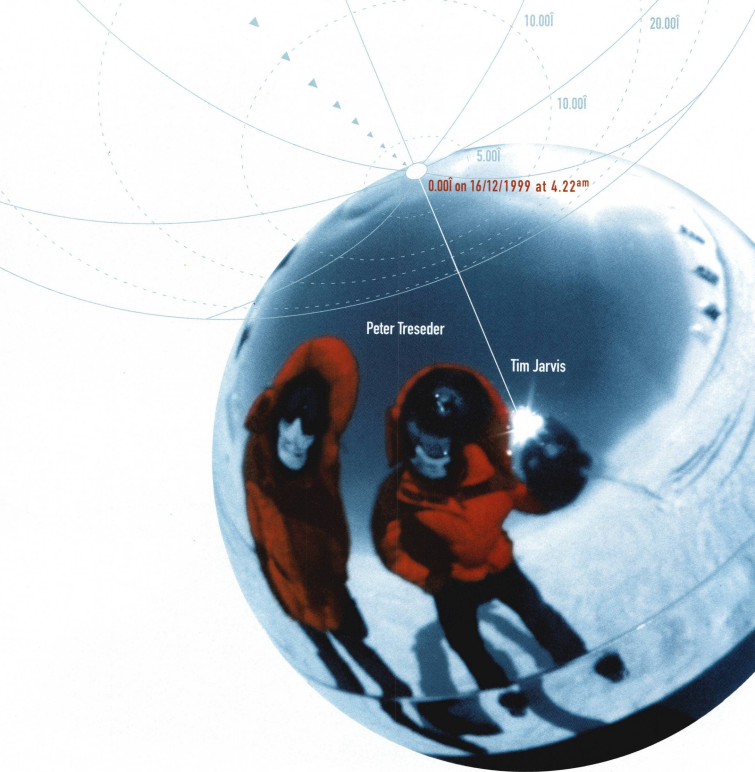
The key to Teva's unsurpassed fit is the Fusion Arch™ System. A midfoot strap travels through a molded shank plate and completely around the foot, locking it to the topsole. This virtually eliminates friction-causing movement within the boot.



## TEVALUTION

Although it's only been 16 years since the first Teva sport sandal stepped out of the Colorado River, they've really come a long way. In fact, the new Summit Series is a whole new species - Teva's most advanced sandal technology perfectly adapted to the harshest terrain and cleverly camouflaged as a hiking boot.

**Teva**  
COME OUT AND PLAY



Peter Treseder

Tim Jarvis



# THERE IS A DIFFERENCE

...between living and feeling alive. A time when your place in the greater scheme of things becomes totally clear. One or two brief moments when you become totally aware of your existence. Pictured here in the heat of one such 'moment', Pete and Tim stare down at the polished silver ball which marks the south pole at its precise location. This lightweight two-man team has just broken the world record for the fastest ever unassisted trek to the south pole.

For the best in independent technical advice and the largest range of Helly Hansen in Australia, contact Bogong Equipment: (03) 9600 0599 or (03) 9415 7599. Web site: [www.bogong.com.au](http://www.bogong.com.au) email: [bogong@bogong.com.au](mailto:bogong@bogong.com.au)



## Technical Clothing = Performance = Exhilaration



## Going the distance

If you read *Wild* regularly, you might have noticed Anthony Evans's name crop up several times in recent issues. An Info item might have mentioned that Evans, who has been performing at the top of the field in multisport events in the last two years, is actually a three-times Winter Olympian.

Despite retiring from international competition in cross-country skiing in 1999, 31-year-old Evans, of Canberra, certainly hasn't retired from competitive sport. Although he now works full time for State Forests, he manages to train about two hours a day, six days a week for two to three months before a big multisport event. Compare that with his life as an elite athlete, when he would train full time for most of the year, working out twice a day almost every day!

Since 'retiring', Evans's greatest success was winning last year's Mt-Buller-to-Melbourne Jones Lang LaSalle Challenge, surprising himself with the record time of 12 hours and 46 minutes. In the same year he came second in the Katoomba-to-Sydney multisport race. He has competed in the Kangaroo Hoppet since it began in 1991 and has finished in almost every position in the top ten—except first!

When Evans shifted his interests to multisport events he found that the disciplines weren't so foreign because he'd run and cycled as part of his training for skiing. What was new was combining them into a multisport event over two days.

Evans had to work on his kayaking; he hadn't done much of that before. He says that one of Australia's best paddlers, Matt Coulter, in Albury, turned him into a 'half-reasonable paddler'. Running is his strong point and favourite multisport leg.

'The thing that interests me about multisport racing is the outdoors component. It's different from triathlons because you're not pounding the bitumen or cycling round and round in circles. It allows me to combine the love of the outdoors and the enjoyment of competing.'

He says that multisport events 'attract a really good group of people, mainly because you have to work very hard to complete one but at the end of the day you have to do it for yourself because there's not a lot of glory in it'.

Finally, what is the secret to Evans's multisport success? He revealed that he has one of the highest measured aerobic capacities in Australia. An obvious benefit of competing full time in endurance events for about ten years!

Naomi Peters



*Introduced into the outdoors by his bushwalking father, Anthony Evans went on to compete in three Winter Olympics in cross-country skiing.*

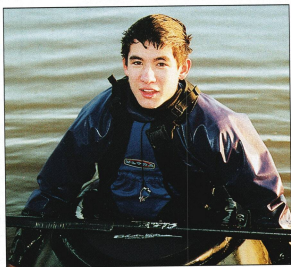
*In his first year of competing in multisport events he won the 1999 Mt-Buller-to-Melbourne Jones Lang LaSalle Challenge in record time. Tom Putt*



## Against the odds

Anthea Bibby reports that Melbourne kayaker Anthony Yap, 16, won the Under-18 Australian freestyle kayaking event at the Penrith Whitewater Stadium near Sydney on 13 May—in a home-made boat and in his first freestyle kayaking competition! Yap's preferred boat wasn't available in time for the competition, so his coach Russell Sheehan had the mould sent from New Zealand and they made a kayak in the backyard. A paddler since the age of 14 (and a level-seven gymnast), Yap only became active in freestyle kayaking—also known as rodeo kayaking—last September. Now in the Australian team, he aims to compete in the World Freestyle Championships in Spain next June.

*Anthony Yap won the Under-18 Australian freestyle kayaking event in Penrith in May despite competing in a home-made boat and never having performed in this type of event. He had found that 'playing on the rivers was much more fun than just running straight down them'. Yap collection*



## Doing time

Merryn Mathie reports that the Blue Mountains National Parks team won the 12th Australian Wilderness Rescue Navigation Shield in Wollemi National Park, New South Wales, on 1–2 July. They covered 59 kilometres during the 30-hour event, almost all this cross-country! The one-day event was won by the Baulkham Hills Bush Fire Brigade. Organised by Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue, the event was the largest yet, attracting 420 people in 119 teams.



*The Blue Mountains National Parks team covered 59 kilometres in 30 hours during July's Australian Wilderness Rescue Navigation Shield in Wollemi National Park. The members were (from left) Richard Delaney, Tony Garbellini, Geoff Luscombe and Ian Brown. Merryn Mathie*

Earlier, on 26–28 May, the Gurkha team from the UK won Community Aid Abroad–Oxfam's Trailwalker 2000, held over 100 kilometres of the Great North Walk in Sydney. Team Rogaine, containing champion rogaier Nigel Aylott, finished two-and-a-half hours later in 16 hours and 55 minutes. The Sydney Striders 'Girls' team, made up of three women and a man, finished third just four minutes behind Team Rogaine.

## New Zealand Mountains with 'High Places'

- Alpine- and Bushwalks
- Ball Pass Crossing – Mt Cook
- Mountain Biking
- Plan Your Own Itineraries

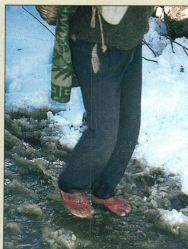
Also, 23 other countries worldwide including Greenland, Patagonia and the Himalayas.



Contact us for your free brochure:  
HIGH PLACES, PO Box 30 Nelson NZ  
Ph 64 3 540 3208, highpl@ts.co.nz  
www.highplaces.co.nz



## Protecting porters



*Is this porter equipped for snow conditions? The International Porter Protection Group, which formed in late 1997, is attempting both to make the public more aware of the needs of porters and to improve industry standards. Jim Duff*

In 1997 a young Nepali mountain porter employed by a trekking company got sick and was dismissed. It took about 30 hours for him to die, after being paid off and sent down on his own... the International Porter Protection Group was formed to prevent these recurring tragedies... With that starkly confronting mission statement we at *Wild* were introduced to this international organisation dedicated to protecting a very vulnerable group of people well known to the many readers who have trekked in Nepal. You can help this worthy cause in a number of ways. Contact the IPPG's representative for Australia, Jim Duff, by phoning (02) 6653 4241.

## Cave splash down

Systematic surveying of Splash Pot cave in the June–Florentine area of Tasmania, mainly by Dave Rasch and Jeff Butt, has resulted in sizeable extensions to the cave. Beyond the tight section called Close to the Bone—50 metres of passage which takes an hour to negotiate—they discovered a 113 metre pitch which they named 'Harrow the Marrow'. The cave was extended from -160 metres to -305 metres, making it the fourth-deepest in Australia with 1800 metres of passage length surveyed. The cave is now within 11 metres of making a connection with Khazad-Dum.

Another significant find was in Wolf Hole at Hastings, south-west of Hobart. This cave was thought to terminate at Tasmania's largest underground lake, Lake Pluto. During the recent dry conditions Tim Anderson led a group which excavated a muddy passage to extend the cave beyond Lake Pluto to discover Lake Charon, named after Pluto's moon.

Stephen Bunton

## Maps, GPSs and datums

The Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping is promoting a new datum from this year, naming it 'Geocentric Datum of Australia' (GDA). A datum is a reference point from which grid lines on maps from national and State organisations are measured. (Fine print in the margin of a map should say something like 'Horizontal Datum: Australian Geodetic Datum 1966'. Australian map makers may also use a 1984 datum, which is about seven centimetres from the 1966 datum. This slight difference does not affect bushwalkers.)

The new datum suits international Global Positioning System (GPS) users better because it is measured from the earth's centre of gravity, around which the satellites orbit. The position of a known point (given as latitude and longitude or as grid coordinates) from the new datum will appear to be about 200 metres north-east of the position given from the old datum. This is significant to bushwalkers and GPS users.

So read your maps carefully when giving or using grid references and when operating GPS units in the future; specify which datum your map and references use.

For more information, see [www.anzlic.org.au/icsm/gda/brochure.htm](http://www.anzlic.org.au/icsm/gda/brochure.htm)

John Poppins

## SCROGIN

- ✦ Bryne Smith reports that the **Gold Coast Bushwalkers Club** celebrated its **25th anniversary** in April by having 182 bushwalkers, ranging in age from 5 to 80, climb 25 peaks.
- ✦ Outdoors enthusiasts **Carl and Michelle Roe**, from Yeronga in Queensland, are having a honeymoon with a difference. In June they left for northern Sweden to start a **7000 kilometre walk** to the west coast of Spain. The journey is expected to take about ten months. Carl is no stranger to long-distance walking trips—in 1996 he trekked from Canada to Mexico.
- ✦ Adventurer extraordinaire **Peter Treseder** will be touring Australia in October and November to **lecture** on his latest Antarctic foray. Details from the Youth Hostels Association: telephone (02) 9261 1111.
- ✦ A **forum** celebrating the rich cultural history and scientific and natural values of the **Bass Strait region** will be held

# A classic day

On 29-30 July the Active For Life Winter Classic was blessed with sunshine, excellent river levels and the best snow base in 15 years. More than 100 teams tackled the two-day, 150 kilometre adventure race from Mt Hotham to Omeo in the Victorian Alps.

Individual racer Cameron Morton, one of Australia's top-ranked skiers, led the field, reaching the Dinner Plain checkpoint in 54 minutes. The mountain run was testing with the extra snow cover; many teams, and Morton, lost valuable time navigating through the timber and across the snow plains. Descending the Great Alpine Road, cyclists raced to beat the cut-off time at the river so that their paddlers could negotiate the current to the end of day one; the fastest teams arrived six hours after the start with only 25 minutes separating the top five teams.

Team Lactic from East Gippsland had their lead slowly eaten away on day two. Cam Lester (Team Promotion) made up six minutes on the mountain bike; Chris Humfrey (Team Tatanka) gained 15 minutes in the rapids.

Team Lactic, consisting of Lenny van Berkel, Brian Wallace, Frazer Johnson and Simon Eaton, was the first team home in 9 hours, 39 minutes and 30 seconds. Team Promotion was second and Veterans Leading Edge, third. The fastest female team was the Diamantinas in 14 hours, 7 minutes and 22 seconds.

Individual racer Tom Crebbin, who has placed second or third for the past five years, won in 10 hours, 20 minutes and 12 seconds, having been the overnight leader by just two minutes. Simon Higgins was second and Mark Swoboda, third. Tanya Faux was the first individual woman home in 14 hours, 48 minutes and three seconds; Karen Hopkinson was second.

Eric Ward



Rebecca Butcher, left, and another competitor, below, in July's Winter Classic. It is hoped that international teams will compete in 2001. Both photos Mark Ashley



in Launceston, Tasmania, from 30 November to 2 December. For info, phone the Marine and Coastal Community Network on (03) 6234 3665.

✦ This year **John Henzell** hopes to ski along the Australian Alps Walking Track for most of his journey from **Wilsons Promontory**, Victoria, to the top of **Mt Kosciuszko**. His other sea-to-summit trips include Mt Blanc, Aconcagua and Mt Cook. 🇨🇦

## Corrections and amplifications

Andrew Lindblade's bio on page 41 of *Wild* no 77 should have stated that he and Athol Whimp were attempting the first direct ascent of the 'true' North Face of Jannu.

The following clarifies the water filters and purifiers survey in *Wild* no 77. First, the weight given for PUR's Voyageur (310 grams) doesn't include the weight of the StopTop carbon cartridge, which is merely an accessory to remove taste and smell; the total weight is about 425 grams. Secondly, SweetWater's WalkAbout filter consists of microscopic borosilicate fibres in a binding resin. It is similar to ceramic technology in that it is a depth filter with a renewable surface acquired by cleaning. It is claimed that ceramic filters are more fragile and can be damaged easily by freezing and dropping. Thirdly, hepatitis B is spread by direct contact with the blood or body fluids of an infected person.

## Wild Diary

Wild Diary listings provide information about rucksack-sports events and instruction courses run by non-commercial organisations. Send items for publication to the Editor, *Wild*, PO Box 415, Prahran, Vic 3181.

### September

- 29- NSWBC slalom school NSW (02) 6649 4155  
1 Oct (Nymboida Canoe Centre) C  
30- VBCE basic skills Vic (03) 9459 4277  
1 Oct instructor workshop C  
Penther Cup S NSW (02) 9552 2701

### October

- 7- 6/12-hr R (Lake Macquarie) NSW (02) 9990 3480  
7-8 VBCE SunSmart introduction Vic (03) 9459 4277  
to canoeing C  
VBCE sea proficiency (Geelong) Vic (03) 9459 4277  
NSWBC river rescue level 1 C ACT (02) 6254 7838  
9-11 Snow & Outdoor Trade Show (Traders only) Vic (03) 9879 8671

- 14 12-hr R SA (08) 8271 2712  
12-hr R (Seymour area) Vic (03) 9718 2753  
12-hr R WA (08) 9381 8608  
14-15 VBCE basic skills Vic (03) 9459 4277  
instructor intake C  
NSWBC white-water instructor course NSW (02) 6649 4155  
(Nymboida Canoe Centre) C

- 16-20 NSWBC raft guides course ACT (02) 6254 7838  
7-8 RC Verra Challenge Vic (03) 9685 9706  
1500 metre canoe sprint event) C  
Cyclaspine R Qld (07) 3369 1681  
27-29 CAOA Adelaide Trailwalker SA (08) 8223 3405  
100-kilometre B

- 28 VBCE river rescue level 1 C Vic (03) 9459 4277  
28-29 VBCE sea instructor intake C Vic (03) 9459 4277

### November

- 11 6/12-hr R ACT (02) 6295 6099  
11-12 VBCE SunSmart introduction to canoeing C Vic (03) 9459 4277  
24-hr R Vic Champs (Mansfield) Vic (03) 9718 2753  
12 VBCE white-water proficiency C Vic (03) 9459 4277  
19 LCK Triple Top Mountain Run (Roland Range) Tas (03) 6491 1259

- 25-26 6/12-hr R (UNSW event) NSW (02) 9990 3480  
25-26 CE Jones Lang LaSalle Challenge (Mt Buller to Melbourne) M Vic (02) 4739 2110

### December

- 1-2 VBCE introduction to sea kayaking C Vic (03) 9459 4277  
2 6-hr R (Maryborough) Vic (03) 9718 2753  
2-3 VBCE SunSmart introduction to canoeing C Vic (03) 9459 4277

- VBCE basic skills instructor assessment C Vic (03) 9459 4277  
NSWBC senior instructor/white-water instructor course (Nymboida Canoe Centre) C NSW (02) 6649 4155

- NSWBC white-water instructor course ACT (02) 6254 7838  
9-10 NSWBC river rescue level 1 C ACT (02) 6254 7838  
16-17 NSWBC basic skills instructor course C ACT (02) 6254 7838

- 27-31 RC Murray Marathon C Vic/NSW (03) 9685 9039

Activities: B bushwalking, C canoeing, M multisports, R rogaining, RC rockclimbing, S skiing  
Community Aid Abroad Oxfam CE Challenge Events LCK Lions Club of Kentish  
Canoe Education RC Red Cross VBCE Victorian Board of Canoe Education NSWBC New South Wales Board of  
rogaining organisations Sking events are organised by Sking Australia Rogaining events are organised by the State



# HI-TEC OUTDOOR COLLECTION



Maximum protection in the most testing conditions

## HI-TEC - Australia's No 1 Outdoor Brand **Transcender**



### TEC-PROOF=BREATHABLE, WATERPROOF MEMBRANE

Offers you the ultimate protection in the wettest conditions.  
Enquiries: call 02 9565 1761

# IT'S A BIG WORLD! ...So how will they find you?

## The KTI mini SAT-ALERT

emergency beacon is your personal link to rescue no matter what your outdoor pursuit. This truly pocket size device is totally waterproof and ready for immediate activation.

In an emergency situation, simply raise the aerial and press the button.

The device will transmit for up to four days continuously on both the 121.5 and 243 MHz satellite monitored international distress frequencies.

The KTI mini SAT-ALERT emergency beacon is approved to AS/NZS 4330 and aviation regulation CAR252A.

The KTI mini SAT-ALERT emergency beacon comes complete with Armatech carry bag, long life lithium batteries and five year warranty.

Whatever your pursuit, the  
**KTI mini SAT-ALERT**  
should be your constant companion.

**kti**

Proudly designed and manufactured in Australia by

**KINETIC TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL PTY. LTD.**  
1 Kembla St., Cheltenham East, Victoria 3192 ACN 058 419 695

Phone: (03) 9583 9566 Fax: (03) 9583 9805

Email: [info@kti.com.au](mailto:info@kti.com.au)

RRP  
**\$290<sup>95</sup>**  
Inc. GST

Pocket-sized  
peace of mind.

Mountaineering courses  
**expeditions and treks**  
with **Guy Cotter**  
and his team of  
**international guides**



### New trips coming up...

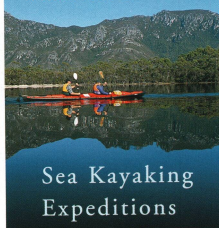
- **Aconcagua** - Polish glacier Jan 29 - Feb 21, 2001
- **Island Peak, Ama Dablam and Everest base camp trek** Oct 11 - Nov 3, 2000
- **New Zealand courses:**  
Mountaineering Instruction Course - 7 days  
Alpine Expedition Course - 12 days

Contact us today for an **expedition brochure...**

**Guy Cotter**  
Adventure Consultants Ltd  
PO Box 97, Wanaka 9192  
New Zealand. Ph +64 3 443 8711  
Fax +64 3 443 8733  
Email: [info@adventure.co.nz](mailto:info@adventure.co.nz)

[www.adventure.co.nz](http://www.adventure.co.nz)

## Wilderness on Water



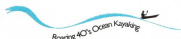
## Sea Kayaking Expeditions

on Bathurst Harbour

and Port Davey

World Heritage Area

Southwest Tasmania.



[www.roaring40skayaking.com.au](http://www.roaring40skayaking.com.au)

email: [rfok@ozemail.com.au](mailto:rfok@ozemail.com.au)

telephone: 1800 653 712

# Improve your photos with a Tamron Zoom Lens

Improve the creativity and versatility of your photography, with a top-quality aspherical zoom lens from Tamron.

You'll be cutting down on the lenses you carry and the money you spend!



## NEW Tamron AF28-200mm f/3.8-5.6 LD Aspherical (IF) Super II-Macro Zoom Lens

The new Tamron AF28-200mm zoom lens is smaller and lighter than its predecessor, and performs like five ordinary lenses - all the way from wide angle to telephoto!

Features include a zoom lock to prevent lens slippage, consistent focus while zooming, closest focus distance of less than 50cm in all ranges, and two Low Dispersion glass elements!

If you're looking for better performance, more creative freedom, reliability and quality - at an affordable price - this lens is for you.



## Tamron AF28-300mm f/3.5-6.3 LD Aspherical (IF) Macro Zoom Lens

Incredibly compact and lightweight, the Tamron AF28-300mm zoom lens is a design "masterpiece". It may truly be the only lens you'll ever really need.

From 28mm wide angle, all the way to an astonishing 300mm telephoto, it delivers pin-sharp, true-to-life colour. Amazingly, it even offers a 1:3.7 macro at 240mm, with a closest focus distance of 60cm!

For those who demand the ultimate zoom range in a lightweight, compact design, this lens will exceed your expectations.

**TAMRON**  
PICTURE PERFECTION

For Nikon, Canon, Minolta & Pentax cameras

**50** years of manufacturing excellence

For more product information, please visit:

[www.maxwell.com.au](http://www.maxwell.com.au)

For a Tamron brochure, please call:

**Sydney** • Phone (02) 9390 0210

**Melbourne** • Phone (03) 9537 0999

**Brisbane** • Phone (07) 3245 1444

Request a Tamron brochure by e-mail:  
[brochure@maxwell.com.au](mailto:brochure@maxwell.com.au)

# We don't just **sell** boots, we **fit** them!

*Wild told you*

See walking-boot survey, Wild no 26, 1988, pages 61-65

“While conducting this survey, I noticed distinct differences between shops. Ajays Snow Country Sports at Heathmont in Melbourne took a particularly thorough line. Staff measure customers' feet with a sizing gauge, which I hadn't seen since being fitted for school shoes. Once this is done, they make a visual assessment, and are then able to recommend particular boots which would fit the customer well. In fact, they are so confident of their fitting, they offer a 'money back-fit guarantee'.”

“Unfortunately, not all shops are so progressive. I couldn't help but wonder whether something as difficult as matching feet to boots should be left in the hands of untrained shop staff.”

Great equipment for bushwalking, skiing, trekking,  
travelling and climbing. Let **Ajays** and now **EMC** help  
you to make the right decision.

***ajays***  
**SNOW COUNTRY SPORTS**

115 Canterbury Road, Heathmont, Vic 3135.  
Phone: (03) 9720 4647. Fax: (03) 9720 2538.  
Email: [ajays@smart.net.au](mailto:ajays@smart.net.au)

**EMC**  
**Eastern Mountain Centre**  
654b Glenferrie Road,  
Hawthorn, Vic 3122.  
Phone: (03) 9818 1544  
Fax: (03) 9818 1545  
Email: [emc@smart.net.au](mailto:emc@smart.net.au)





# Lust in the dust

The truth about mating and mateship in the bush,  
by **Quentin Chester**



*Who knows what you'll disturb in the Australian bush! Cape Le Grand National Park, Western Australia. Richard King*

**DAVE AND I HAD JUST FINISHED A CLIMB** on Tiger Wall at Victoria's Mt Arapiles. We were tiptoeing along Flinders Lane, a broad ledge that traverses underneath the Bluffs, two mammoth blocks that cap 'The Mount's' proudest summit. Having managed to huff and puff our way up a long corner we were feeling perky. All around us stood the climbs of our youth. Climbs with names such as Scorpion Corner, Quo Vadis and Kama Sutra. Inspired perhaps by the memory of these and all manner of other conquests Dave turned to me with a wolfish grin and said: 'You know, I once enjoyed sexual congress on this ledge.'

This confession caught me off guard. Now I know that men are supposed to think about sex every 30 seconds—even more often if they're awake. All the same, it's not every day a compatriot actually comes clean, so to speak. Unsure what to say, I gave my best version of a knowing smile and walked on, leaving Dave staring into space. Then, eventually, there was a voice behind me. 'Ah yes, but that was a long time ago', murmured Dave, adding a footnote that echoed a thousand bad song titles: 'And we were young.'

Twenty minutes later we were back in the camping ground. The mood had passed. Our priority was lunch. It was not the time for boasting about our youthful climbs of passion and other debaucheries, at least not in front of the wives and kids. But later, as Dave and I trogged to the distant crags of

the Northern Group for an afternoon climb, my thoughts returned to the affairs of the heart and connected organs.

Gazing upwards to the cliff I saw not just a stirring array of classic climbs but hundreds of promising-looking ledges, each, I childishly imagined, with a *risqué* story like Dave's to

moments of mutual fulfilment. Indeed, in the popular imagination, the outdoors is brimful with sexual possibilities. So, it seems, you only have to show some folks a few waves breaking on the beach or some piddling, little waterfall and they're tearing each other's gear off. And where would Hollywood be

***'If you want to ogle at gratuitous  
nudity and rampant promiscuity  
visit your local National Park.'***

tell. If only the rocks could talk! What tales they could reveal of couples doing what couples do, naked before the mountain and all that!

Yet where do we read of such open-air goings-on? Certainly not in the annals of adventure. Based on all the wilderness yarns and expedition books I've read, it might be inferred that the simple act of donning a rucksack has a crippling effect on one's libido. Why is it that outdoors travellers portray themselves as having about as much sex drive as a eunuch frozen in pack ice from the neck down?

This is a tad surprising given that ever since the days of Adam and Eve a walk in the shrubbery has been linked with exquisite

without leafy woods where tumbling two-somes can disappear for some serious snogging? As for those High Country cabins, well now, we all know that lurking within you'll find a seductive open fire, a fluffy rug and the love muffin of your dreams—albeit with a film crew waiting to shoot another Nescafé commercial.

If these racy media images are not enough, then in the very act of getting back to nature, we are exposed to a wealth of suggestive material. They don't call it the birds and the bees for nothing. Apart from skirmishes over territory and a bit of cutesy stuff rearing off-spring, the natural world is all about sex. If you want to ogle at gratuitous nudity and rampant promiscuity visit your local Na-

**North Australia...**

## ...the world's **most** comfortable wilderness.



This is a wilderness with a difference, a wilderness that says relax and enjoy.

You walk for an hour, perhaps less, then you take a break, enjoy the warmth and soak up the sights, scents and sounds of nature around you.

Every lunch, every campsite and almost every break is next to a clear, tropical pool, perfect for swimming, pure enough to drink.

*Sleep under the stars.* Why put up a tent if you know it's not going to rain? *Enjoy the campfire.* Why carry a stove when firewood is plentiful and people are few? Visit the Aboriginal art sites and learn the story of the world's oldest living culture.

[www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au](http://www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au)



**Willis's Walkabouts**

12 Carrington St Millner NT 0810 Email: [walkabout@ais.net.au](mailto:walkabout@ais.net.au)

**Phone: (08) 8985 2134**

**Fax: (08) 8985 2355**

Climbing Rafting Bushwalking

## Mt Buller

Diploma of  
Outdoor Recreation



If you are seeking a career in the outdoor recreation industry this is a unique opportunity to study, work and live in the alpine resort of Mt Buller.

**Australian Alpine Institute**

PO Box 58, Mt Buller, 3723. ABN 71 056 764 080



**LA TROBE**  
UNIVERSITY  
**MT BULLER**

**Tel: (03) 5733 7000**

## SUMMER PROGRAM



- ★ 5-day Canyoning Adventure
- ★ Flinders Island Cycling Tour
- ★ Canoe Tours
- ★ Alpine and Coastal Bushwalking
- ★ Altitude Training
- ★ Mountain Biking
- ★ Cross-country Ski Instruction and Tours
- ★ Back-country Snowboarding
- ★ Snowshoeing



**RIVER MOUNTAIN**  
GUIDES

FREECALL FOR BROCHURE

**1800 818 466**

PO Box 2300 SHEPPARTON 3632

[rmg@cni.com.au](mailto:rmg@cni.com.au)

[www.rivermountainguides.cni.com.au](http://www.rivermountainguides.cni.com.au)

tional Park. (But be careful not to look too closely, especially you blokes. It's a grim fact that males of many species die on the job. On the other hand, you might feel envious of the humble barnacle whose old fella is 20 times his body length or the only slightly less humble paper nautilus who has a detachable willy that roams the briny in search of a bit of the other.)

In the light of all this hyperstimulation, it could be thought that sex in the wild is all the go. We humans might not have a barnacle's hard shell, alas; however, we are encrusted with centuries of social etiquette and inhibition. Accordingly, real-life opportunities for a bit of outdoors rumpy bumpy are not as abundant as you might think.

For all the wide open spaces, the wilds can be remarkably short on privacy. And it's not getting any easier. These days you have about as much chance of a furtive quickie on Flinders Lane, Mt Arapiles, as you would on the MCG during a grand final. On any given weekend the place is crawling with people. And even as Dave led off up our climb in the Northern Group, an area climbers used to visit about once a decade, the tell-tale clang and chatter of at least six other climbing parties was around us. I resolved to belay Dave without looking up. For some reason the rear view of him thrashing up the climb—his buttocks heaving against the bulging, orange stone—summoned forth unwelcome images of Dave getting his end away.

Sharing other people's most intimate moments can indeed bring conflicting responses. For example, in areas where camp-site options are limited there's every chance your tent will be just centimetres from the neighbours. For the sleep deprived—I speak from bitter experience here—few troubles can compare with being lodged next to a couple of strangers intent on giggling, squealing, moaning and grunting their way to the next sunrise.

On the other hand, I once spent an extremely informative evening seated at a picnic table in Kakadu doing my best to read the map. Meanwhile, across the way, a well-endowed young couple—Norwegians, I was later told—engaged in a marathon session of pairs rhythmic gymnastics. It's not just sound that tent fabrics transmit so effectively. A bright gas lantern inside the Norwegians' tent was perfectly angled to project an exotic shadow play on the tent's gossamer-thin fabric, a writhing performance befitting the kind of video available only from a post office box in Fyshwick. I and many other patrons of the camping ground were, of course, appalled—some of us for hours at a time.

Assuming that you can find a secluded tent site, some formidable technical challenges still remain. Chief among these is the sleeping-bag. Wonderful, snugly creations they might be—but only for one. While some versions can allegedly be zipped together, this operation is so mind-numbingly intricate you soon realise that all sleeping-bag designers are automatically granted Festival of Light life membership. An hour spent fiddling with twisting sliders and snagging

various fabrics and sensitive body parts in zips is guaranteed not just to dampen one's ardour but to reduce both parties to sobbing wrecks.

Nevertheless, raw, seething passion does have a happy knack of overcoming even the biggest obstacles. So it is that love-struck couples are prepared to brave scree slopes, risk frostbite and rumble naked among lawyer vines and stinging trees to gratify their base desires. Still, it could be worse. You could be trying to pretend to have a romantic tryst while stuck in a budget motel room in Yass.

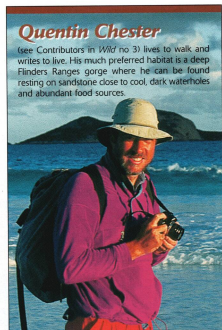
Doubtless, outdoors activities have also 'given rise' to enough fetishes and perversions to keep psychotherapists in business for another century or so. For example, kayakers putting a very different twist on the Eskimo Roll and climbers finding arresting, new uses for harnesses and ropes. It can only be a matter of time before there is a three-mile-high club for oxygenless copulations

It was the end of a long, hot day. It's probably just as well for us that the funny business came much later.

Such experiences are, I suspect, pretty typical. Out bush a lot is usually happening. Which means that by the end of the day either or both of you will probably be too knackered to raise an eyebrow, let alone anything else. So if the question is popped a likely response will be: 'Oh yes, possum, darling, that would be marvellous, if only I wasn't so stuffed from climbing that bloody ridge, pitching the tent and cooking dinner in the pissing rain.'

So yes, the unglamorous truth is that carnal delights generally take a bit of a back seat in the outdoors. Though in my own case this back seat proved a lot more successful than the one in my 1966 Beetle. For all my fervent

**'...the outdoors  
is brimful  
with sexual  
possibilities.'**



### Quentin Chester

(see Contributors in *Wild* no 3) lives to walk and writes to live. His much preferred habitat is a deep Flinders Ranges gorge where he can be found resting on sandstone close to cool, dark waterholes and abundant food sources.

on Mt Everest's summit ridge. When those jet-stream winds howl you'll be glad you packed that extra kilo of Viagra.

At long last Dave had struggled to our first belay. The climb was Touchstone, an old favourite. I dutifully followed, scampering to the climb's perched corner, happy to lose myself in the action. Lots of teetering and groping, with one final flurry and a climactic lunge. 'Was it good for you, too?' asked Dave with a smirk as I joined him on the ledge. 'Oh yes, yes!' was my panting reply.

There was one more pitch of climbing to the top, a breezy, uplifting edge of solid rock. Dave followed me, his limbs flailing, fairly racing through the moves. He arrived with cheeks puffing and the grimace of weary elation that not-so-young climbers wear.

'Great stuff,' he said as he lay on his back gazing into the clouds. 'Lots of memories.'

Curiosity got the better of me. 'Don't tell me you scored on this one as well.'

'No, no, nothing like that. My fling on Tiger Wall was strictly a one-off. No, this was the first climb with my dearly beloved.

attempts at pubs and parties I remained luckless in the wild oats department until things such as climbing and bushwalking absorbed my surplus anxieties. As my Mum was wont to say: 'Everyone needs an outlet, dear.'

Indeed, they do. Around town I was just another emotionally thwarted nymphomaniac trapped in an adolescent male body. But out bush there was a miraculous release from the tyranny of hormones. Urgencies such as saving my neck on a climb or navigating a white-out gradually sidelined the mask of surly reticence I'd worn to hide my assortment of pangs and turmoils. By accident and by degrees I became a slightly less defective social creature.

Which is why I feel an undying debt of gratitude to the bright spark who invented cliffs, timbered ranges and broad, snow-covered plains. It was in these places that I began to see people clearly and realised that it was okay to like and be liked—in spite of everything. As I see it, a relationship that can survive five days of your foot odour problem as well as a leaky tent where everyone sleeps in a wet spot probably has as good a future as any.

Oh yeah, I suppose if you're lucky you might fluke a 'lust in the dust' encounter such as Dave's on Flinders Lane. But if you're really lucky you will crack on to somebody who wants to keep going to good places as well. Someone who doesn't mind waiting while you stumble upon a few basics such as trust and respect. Of course, conjugal bliss is important and, yes, size does matter. But the touchstone moments that unchain your heart are what really make a difference. ☺

*Quentin Chester*



## Vertical Innovations

### Adventure Challenge Activities

#### Design, Construction, Maintenance

- Low- and High Ropes Course
- 'Swing by Choice'...a total buzz
- Team Puzzles \*The Trapeze
- Vertical Challenge \*Team Rescue
- Climbing Walls/Abseil Towers
- Payback scheme available
- Annual inspection reporting service

### Equipment Supplies

- Vertical® harnesses
- Mobile ropes course supplies
- Crux™ pulleys
- Climbing holds
- Industrial Height Safety Equipment

### Professional Development—Short Courses

#### Nationally Accredited

(except Reptile Awareness)

- Challenge Ropes
- Abseil Leaders—Single Pitch
- Vertical Rescue
- Working with People with Disabilities—CRC focus
- Trainer/Facilitator/Coach
- Ski Touring Guides
- Winter Skills
- Reptile Awareness
- Mountainbike Leader

Call Matt Scott or Sue Ashe  
on (02) 9979 6650 for a chat,  
orders, training calendar...

## Vertical Innovations International

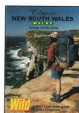
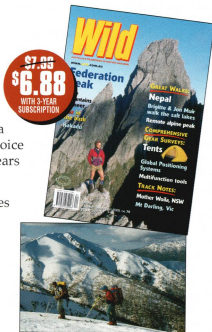
[www.vertical.com.au](http://www.vertical.com.au)  
[info@vertical.com.au](mailto:info@vertical.com.au)



A Registered Training Organisation  
Adventure Challenge Activities  
Industrial Rigging and Access  
Rescue and Height Safety Equipment

## SUBSCRIBE TO Wild... and get 'the lot'!

- Save big \$\$\$
- Receive a **free WildGUIDE** of your choice
- Receive a **free Wild index** of your choice
- Receive a **free Wild poster** of your choice valued at \$11.20 or a **free Wild back issue** of your choice when you subscribe for three years
- **Free home delivery**
- **Protection** against price increases



PHONE (03) 9826 8483 OR USE THE ORDER FORM  
IN THIS ISSUE TO SUBSCRIBE.

Offer applies to new, renewing and gift subscriptions.

## Hate shopping? Now you can do it from home at [www.e-camping.com.au](http://www.e-camping.com.au)

No sales pressures, detailed product info, easy-to-place orders, easy and secure to pay on-line (or mail/fax if you prefer), **FREE delivery in Australia if over \$150**



Going backpacking?  
Save time and money with  
our "Backpacker packs"

Backpacks & accessories  
Backpacker packs  
Compasses  
Travel books  
Camping accessories  
Cooking equipment  
Sleeping bags & accessories  
Tents and swags  
Outdoor furniture  
Waterproof boxes  
Wristop computers

Top brands sold at competitive prices – Summit, Tatonka, Sea to Summit, Pacsafe, Puradown, Caribee, MSR, Suunto, Silva, Thermarest, Thermos, Strahl, Brunton, Lonely Planet, SealLine, Pelican, Equip, Eureka!, Earth Mats – these brands plus more – new brands coming soon, **FREE newsletter**



[e-camping.com.au](http://e-camping.com.au)





Imagine an Island  
that's one giant  
outdoor playground



When they named the outdoors great, they must have been in Tasmania. From the serenity of canoeing, bushwalking and cycling to the adrenalin pumping rush



of abseiling, rock climbing and white water rafting, there's something for everyone in Tasmania. To book your next adventure call your travel agent today.

For a copy of the Networking Tasmanian Adventures Brochure call 1800 068 900 or visit [www.tourism.tas.gov.au](http://www.tourism.tas.gov.au)

TASMANIAN

TASMANIAN BUSHWALKING

# Getting Dad up Federa

Doug Johnson recalls a family operation akin to raising the *Titanic* to get him atop Tasmania's Federation Peak

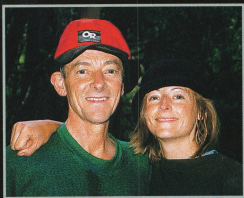




# fion

IT STARTED WITH MY DAUGHTER ROSIE suggesting that she take me bushwalking early in the New Year. But where? In February the mainland is too hot and dry and New Zealand was too difficult to organise for the time available. So we settled on Tasmania. I had walked the Overland Track twice and climbed Frenchmans Cap. Rosie had plodded along the South Coast Track but Federation Peak beckoned us both. When my other daughter, Jenny, in the UK at the time, heard of our plans she uttered just two words—'I'm coming!'

Then we got down to the two big Ps—Planning and Preparation. Many people were consulted about the feasibility and practicality of getting a 61-year-old to Federation and back without firing off our EPIRB (emergency position-indicating radio beacon). Surprisingly, Rosie's boss Chris Baxter enthused although I am much shorter in the leg and longer in the tooth than he! Guidebook author John Chapman gave much practical advice about minimising the gear but maximising its effectiveness. The girls worked on a lightweight but highly calorific menu.



**Above,** Wild's Editorial Coordinator Rosie Johnson with her mountain-goat Dad, Doug. Jenny Johnson. **Pages 26 and 27,** it's hard to believe that an unroped ascent of Federation is possible when you see the peak from the Devils Thumb. Fortunately, if you approach Federation Peak from Farmhouse Creek, as we did, you're spared this view until after you've climbed the peak. Grant Dixon

I had two months to get physically prepared. My occasional five kilometre walk or jog became almost a daily ritual. I then put a 25 litre drum of water in my pack and carried that on my walks. All those long-forgotten memories of aching shoulders came flooding back and I wondered why I was doing this. Why? I am still grappling with this. A few days later I remembered to do knee-bend exercises. We had been advised to do 50 of these a day, before going to Nepal a few years ago. So I did 40 comfortably but two days later I couldn't think why I had such sore knees. I had found several muscle groups I wasn't exercising—



*This photo of Jenny was taken moments before the party turned back on the Southern Traverse and ascended Federation (not pictured). The Devils Thumb and Thwaites Plateau are in the background.*  
Rosie Johnson

were there others? Perhaps a proper workout in a gym was advisable but I hate indoor gyms as much as I dislike squash in comparison with outdoor tennis. The secret weapon I used in my preparation was a rather unusual exercise—walking up hills backwards—it really does things for one's knees. But my wife found it embarrassing if a car passed us on the road.

We felt it was safer to have four walkers in such rugged terrain, so we invited a strap-

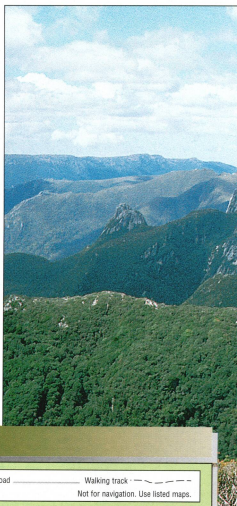
ping Adonis who, we hoped, would carry more than his fair share of the weight and could pull me up the difficult bits—enter Jolyon!

But why were we doing this? Adventure, independence, physical satisfaction, comradeship—as well as to see one of the most beautiful wilderness areas in the world. This was worth the aches and pains, blisters, risk of dangerous falls, cold and fatigue. So at what age should one stop walking? My answer is—not yet!

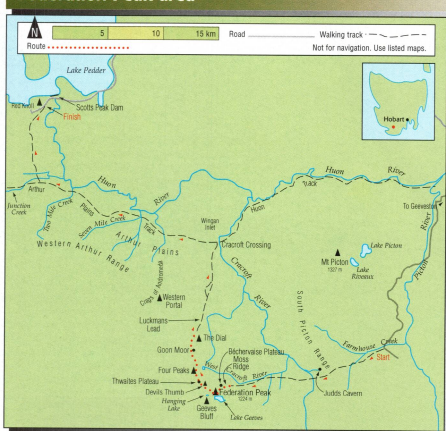
Our basic plans were simple. We would meet at the Hobart airport on Friday 28 January and be driven to the Farmhouse Creek track by lunchtime. We would then walk to the South Cracroft River. Thereafter the daily stops would be Cutting Camp, Béchervaise Plateau, Thwaites Plateau, Goon Moor, Pass Creek, Cracroft Crossing, and hence to the Scotts Peak Dam to be picked up on Saturday 5 February. This gave us one spare day in case the weather should be less than perfect.

The week before we left was filled with extra chores, little time for adequate exercise, concerns about the weather and numerous other matters. However, finally we were off and after lunch at Farmhouse Creek we started a delightful walk, in dappled sunlight, up the valley. We followed Chapman's directions and arrived at the saddle and then proceeded down the other side following some very fresh blazes on trees. The track was surprisingly poor but after two hours we suddenly dropped down to water—however, it was scarcely a river and it was flowing in the wrong direction! A quick

look around made us realise that we were at Judds Cavern. The creek flowed out of the entrance to the cavern but we did not explore further as we suspected that it was a sacred Aboriginal site. A magnificent campsite was nearby but many dead trunks leaned precariously over it—fortunately none fell



## Federation Peak area



during the night. The next day we scouted around for the old track which would take us to the Cracroft River; it could not be found. So we walked back up to the saddle. We were four hours behind schedule. The track down to the Cracroft River was through a beech forest. Some of the fallen timber

trouble if they were carrying our packs. After five hours of climbing, which included two pack-hauling sections, and after consuming mountains of scroggin, we arrived at Upper Béchervaise Plateau.

There was time to pitch our tents and then climb upwards to explore the route

proceeded onwards for another half-hour. Suddenly the cloud lifted. The sun came out and we could see the peak. We dropped our packs and hastened back.

The Direct Ascent consists of short but very steep sections with two very dangerous spots. Cairns are well placed along the whole route. Ropes are not necessary but climbing skills are essential. Fortunately, my three young companions all had experience at rockclimbing so they were able to guide my trembling hands and feet to the appropriate holds over the smooth sections. I looked down once—it was terrifying. In cold, wet weather the climb would be far too dangerous—a slip would result in a fall of 600 metres. I was comforted to know that 'only' three people had died on this section.

The last part of the climb was a rocky scramble and then we were at the top—with stupendous views over Lake Pedder,



*Federation Peak is the impressive finale of the rugged Eastern Arthur Range. Doug was enjoying himself so much by the time this photograph was taken that he dragged Jol and his daughters on an unnecessary side-trip up into the Western Arthurs for more views. Despite the party's whining, it was worth every bit of the extra effort. Jenny Johnson*

across the track had been chain-sawed by a kindly track worker but he or she had given up well before reaching the river. On the other side of the river are open button-grass plains where we obtained the first magnificent views of Federation Peak. Cutting Camp is set in a beautiful paper-bark forest and is an ideal camp-site beside a creek though it was a long day getting there.

Nothing could have prepared us for the climb up Moss Ridge. Wearing a weighted pack before the trip had toughened up the shoulders but climbing over and under logs and squeezing one's pack between closely spaced tree-trunks while rising rapidly 600 metres was not fun. Chapman likens this part of the walk to a gymnastic course. We felt that Olympic gymnasts would have

we would take the next day. We found Geeves Gully and were appalled at its steepness—almost a vertical drop down to Lake Geeves. We looked around for an easier route; there was none. Cold, damp mist hung all around. Our enthusiasm was dampened—this was dangerous country. We retreated to our tents and worried about what would befall us the next day.

In light rain and with low mist around us, we climbed up above the plateau and then very carefully negotiated the climb down a steep chimney slot, across Geeves Gully to the chockstone on the Southern Traverse. When we reached the cairns leading to the Direct Ascent, cloud was still all around us and we were very cold so we stopped for lunch. As the weather did not improve, we

**'Many people were consulted about the feasibility and practicality of getting a 61-year-old to Federation and back without firing off our EPIRB.'**

the distant Southern Ocean and all the surrounding peaks. The logbook was duly signed. It was 31 January and 50 walkers had reached the summit since New Year's Day. Then a slow, very careful descent took place. We picked up our packs and were so elated that we missed the turn-off to Thwaites Plateau and instead found ourselves at Hanging Lake—a superb camp-site with three platforms for tents and a constructed loo which must surely have the most magnificent views for a loo in Australia.

The trip was far from over—it was still hard work getting to Goon Moor on the following day. However, we had lots of magnificent views looking back to Federation Peak. It is certainly the most impressive peak in the area, standing out like the central tower of Durham Cathedral in the UK. At Goon Moor is a secluded camp-site on boards. Dinner was served sitting on a rugged outcrop above the camp as the sun set. The view was unforgettable.

The next day it was a long scramble to get around to Stuart Saddle. Then followed



the long descent of 800 metres down Luckmans Lead to Pass Creek. It was a hot day. Our feet were painfully jammed into the tops of our boots and our knees were creaking by the time we reached Pass Creek for a late lunch. The flies were so appalling that we crazily decided to climb up Lucifer Ridge to camp at Lake Rosanne. This was a long haul on a very hot day and I became quite short of breath. The views back to the Eastern Arthurs were fantastic. We finally dropped down to the lake, which has its own little quartz beach with superb swimming. We declared the next day our day off so we simply walked without packs around the Crags of Andromeda to the West Portal where we enjoyed the spectacular views across Glovers Pass to Luckmans Lead and Federation Peak to the east and the whole length of the Western Arthurs to the west. The later afternoon was spent sitting in Lake Rosanne on white quartz boulders playing five hundred, thus escaping most of the flies.

The hike ended with a long descent to Cracroft Crossing and then the longer walk along the Arthur Plains Track to Two Mile Creek where we spent our last night. After hot weather for three days, rain started overnight and fell heavily the next morning as we walked to Junction Creek and then up Mackays Track to Scotts Peak Dam. We arrived at our pick-up point without any food left at all, enough tea for one final cup and four squares of toilet paper. The girls had catered well.

On the entire walk we met only 11 other walkers and three rangers. One of the rangers commented how few walkers there had been so far that summer. There was no evidence of environmental damage and only one sweet paper was picked up on the whole route. More duckboards are being laid. Timber for tent decking had been dumped at Béchervaise Plateau. We were most impressed with the three toilets which had been constructed.

We were constantly amazed that this most rugged and beautiful part of Tasmania had ever been explored on foot and that such good tracks had eventually been made. Even with the best of modern walking gear and lightweight, nutritious food we still found the trip very arduous. Our respect for these early walkers remains immense. For people in sedentary occupations like ours, prolonged fitness preparation certainly pays off. But the success of our trip was undoubtedly due more to the good weather than to our adequate preparation. Perhaps my good fortune will encourage other 61-year-old obstetricians to go to Federation Peak with their rockclimbing daughters. 🐾

*Doug Johnson is a specialist obstetrician working on the Mornington Peninsula, Victoria. He was walking off and on since his first walk to Lake Tali Karg, in the Victorian Alps, in 1954. His three children have all been dragged along at various times and now claim to love it, too.*

# A Very Foolish

Jolyon Blazey saves his reputation by making the hairy ascent

**'SO WHAT DOES THE GUIDEBOOK CALL THIS?'**

'Steep.'

'Not very steep?'

'No, just steep.'

'Right, okay.'

I had a full pack on. My index finger and thumb were holding on to the end of a damp twig that felt loose. My left foot was buried in a blob of spongy peat that was connected

wards up hills, 70 kilometres away in Moorooduc.

The walk to and from Federation Peak began with thick and gloomy Antarctic beech forest which always reminds me of children's fairy tales. It would not have been incongruous for a green troll to crawl out from a hollow log with a three-pronged spear and shout 'Halt!' But, instead, we waded through



*Squeaky clean at our starting-point, Farmhouse Creek. Doug (left), Jol (the 'strapping Adonis') and sisters Rosie and Jenny. Richard Kjar*

to other, similar blobs that together formed a precarious staircase up the rock face on our way to Federation Peak. To look down was unwise. Deep, methodic breathing was a very good idea and, when coupled with very calculated and slow body moves, I thought I might just make it. Believe me, if I hadn't trained for this I wouldn't have made it.

★

I began to train about a month before. Up at five in my dimly lit room, the 20 litre water container sloshed gently as I eased it into the pack. I was puffing from its weight by that stage. The dog was waiting at the door. We exited into the suburban darkness and headed for the beach. A strong wind was blowing plumes of sand into the air, which would be kind of exciting and romantic if we weren't in Brighton, Melbourne. On the way back two middle-aged power walkers grabbed their poodles and fled. I must have looked strange in full council-worker uniform and with a heavy, sloshing pack, but that's okay because I knew that my bushwalking partner Doug was walking back-

ward (admittedly, shallow for Tassie), stumbled over the hollow log and on to the wrong track. We ended up at a dark and cold camp-site next to an astonishing limestone cave with a five metre ceiling and a small river flowing straight out of the mouth. We found out later that the cave was an Aboriginal sacred site; I'm glad that we had the good sense not to explore.

We walked out from the cave site and rejoined the main track; our wrong turn was so obvious that we must have been in a daze to follow it. Here we met two (other) strapping Adonises having a cigarette in the trees. We all scoffed at this, being the healthy-livin' individuals that we are; but we were soon passed by them, and they passed us every other day as well (after finishing their morning fog). We emerged into very exposed button-grass heath land and experienced rain, wind and the famous Peter Dombrovskis view of the Eastern Arthurs including the peak itself.

We met the Cracroft River (hard both to pronounce and to walk along) and had to

# Under-taking

## Federation Peak

negotiate a mess of slippery fallen trunks and razor grass. A full block of rum 'n' raisin dark chocolate was required for this section. After auditing our food we realised that we had shopped for speed, not satisfaction, and Vita-wheats were rationed to four a person each day. After eight days I was amazed that I hadn't lost much weight. I realised that we must eat about twice as much food as we need in this crazy, post-humanist society in which we live.

Moss Ridge was a nightmare of third-day weariness, more slippery fallen logs and bushwalking-yoga to squeeze through those awkward tight spots. The guidebook labelled this section as 'steep, with some very steep sections that may require pack-hauling'. You've just gotta love that Australian tradition of understatement. And pack-hauling? Climb up first without the pack, then drag the packs up by rope denuding the slope of any remaining vegetation

*'Even the understated guidebook began to emit words such as "very steep", "extreme care", and "tremendous exposure".'*

and loose rock. Believe me, it is safer to go first in these operations.

By now we were in a sort of montane woodland and things had cooled off considerably. We climbed higher on to Béchervaise Plateau, which was a patchwork of stunted pandanus, rocky outcrops and a fine carpet of alpine grasses and herbs. The ground was more like spongy peat than solid but we were used to that by now and it definitely made for good sleeping. The view from the plateau showed nearly all the ground we had covered. I strolled over to the edge of the plateau at dusk and just stood there in the freezing-cold air gazing down into the valley.

Polypropylene thermal garments unleash a whole new experience in body odour. We're talking old socks with fruity notes of sweet-and-sour pork to borrow a term from

wine-tasting. The aroma begins to mature after the fourth day of powdered chicken cacciatore and rice. But where would I be without thermals? I recall a conversation with fellow walker Jenny as we were organising the trip. I said, 'Yeah, I'll be taking a pair of Levis, a few T-shirts and a council bluey. What are you guys taking?'

'Oh, right. Well, we're taking lots of thermals, some quick-dry tops and Gore-Tex coats and overpants. Jol, perhaps you should consider taking thermals, maybe?'

those large, radiant ripples was the beginning of vertigo. Geeves, wasn't he a butler? Memories of Tin Tin and childhood began unfolding.

'Geeves, what do you make of all this?' 'If I may be so bold, sir, very foolish.'

Even the understated guidebook began to emit words such as 'very steep', 'extreme care', and 'tremendous exposure'. Everything was making me nervous. Rosie was our champion climber and she went first. I will never forget her small, nimble fingers turning white with cold on the rock.

I'll confess that my original intention was not to climb the peak but a few things happened along the way that changed my mind. First, the horrific Southern Traverse—which I have just described—was the only way through the Eastern Arthurs and after we were through, I knew that the peak could not be much worse. And, secondly, Doug was the only other male in the group and at 61 years of age he clambered up the summit track like a mountain goat. My reputation was at stake.

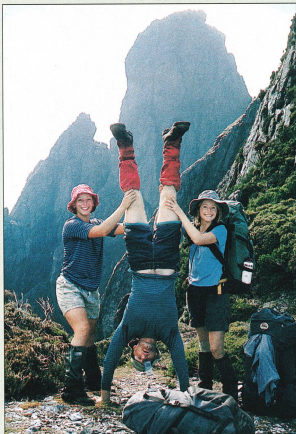
So I simply swallowed any visions I had of rag-doll figures cartwheeling down the precipice and made sure that I was breathing deeply. There wasn't a problem with concentration; we were all completely wired on adrenalin. Think several Turkish coffees in a row. There are about five vertical sections with adequate holds; without climbing experience these would have been very tough for Doug, but he didn't show any sign of wavering. Not all the rock was secure. I gave everything a friendly tap with my knuckles to check for that hollow sound.

We made it up there—and back, which was harder—and then engaged in communal back slapping and post-mortems for the next two days. The adrenalin didn't wear off for at least that long. I didn't really

notice the view from the summit but Doug assures me that it was really amazing. I almost wanted to go back straight away and do it again, but that was the adrenalin talking, not I. ☺

*Jolyon Blazey is a computer programmer/botanist who is based in Melbourne. He has walked and cross-country skied extensively through the Victorian Alps and has spent some time in the Sierra Nevada in California.*

The best maps to use for this walk are the *Old River* and *Huron* 1:100 000 Tasmap sheets. See *Wild* nos 73, 61, 52 and 43 for other articles on Federation Peak.



*High on success, Jol does a celebratory handstand in front of Federation. Doug Johnson*

Don't worry, I can take a hint, especially from a seasoned, multiskilled adventurer like Jenny. I was in disposals the next day, a formidable stack of thermals and a Visa card on the counter. Body odour or not, warmth is the key.

From here on in my notes turn into a combination of sappy declarations of love to my family and friends, and amendments to my will. One look down Geeves Gully and the lake below is enough to turn even a strapping Adonis into butter. When I saw the lake I began to hallucinate; looking at









TREKKING IN NEPAL

# *Footloose in the Himalayan 'Foothills'*

Gloria Keil chuckles her way to Annapurna Base Camp on a classic tea-house trek



**SOME TIME AGO MY HUSBAND SAID, 'I THINK we should go trekking in Nepal again before we get too decrepit'.**

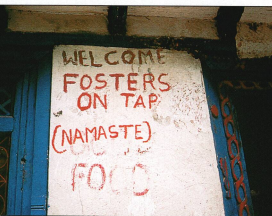
As we were on the brink of 66 and 63, respectively, I thought that we were already too decrepit and said so but he replied, 'Non-sense, piece of cake', and sent off for visas. 'We'll go somewhere new, like the Annapurna Sanctuary, and then to Muktinath again.'

He assured me that things were different and easier since we had been there 20 years ago. Trekkers were now catered for along all

cided to go to Muktinath in the dry season it will also entail walking along a wide and rocky riverbed into a head wind full of gritty sand; judging when, where and how to cross the various strands of the rapidly flowing river without getting freezingly wet and when to take to the tracks that snake up the mountainsides to avoid the uncrossable bits. From these mountain tracks—some of them very high indeed to get past gigantic landslides that have dumped the previous track into the river—you can look down and watch miniature donkey trains and loaded yaks winding their way steadily along the riverbed, the tinkling of their bells rising faintly to the heights.

Early winter is a marvellous time for trekking in Nepal. The air is brisk and clear, the skies are blue, the surrounding peaks are

a German girl carrying a large pack. She didn't feel well and sat down and cried a couple of times. She had no idea it would be like this, she said. This was her first day trekking and she didn't know how much longer she could go on. She went walking every holiday but not like this and how much further was it to the top? About two hours, poor girl. Her big, strong partner was way ahead (with mine) waiting for her, admiring the view, full of energy and enthusiasm. I told her how awful I'd found my first three days of trekking 20 years ago, how I would have gone back by helicopter if I'd known how to contact one, how my muscles had cramped and my knees turned to jelly and how I, too, had cried. I told her how it had improved after that and how I'd enjoyed the rest of it but I don't think



***Above, the promise of a cold one (or two) at this lodge was sadly not fulfilled. Lodging signs are friendly and inviting but they're not always 100 per cent reliable—especially if they concern beer or hot showers! All uncredited photos Grant Dixon***

the most popular routes. We wouldn't have to go with a group and a string of porters, cooks and guides and sleep in tents in the snow. We could go by ourselves, walk at our own pace, stop wherever we liked and eat and sleep in comfortable lodges where they would put a fire pot of glowing coals under the blanket skirts of the communal table to keep us warm when the sun went down. We could have short, lazy days if we got tired of walking. We could hire a porter so that we wouldn't have to carry much. And some places even had electricity now. What more could we want?

'Are the mountains less steep than they used to be?' I wanted to ask, but decided not to be a wet blanket. Trekking in Nepal takes place 'in the foothills of the Himalayas' as the brochures say. The foothills might be hill-like when compared with Mt Everest and other Himalayan peaks but they're mountains all right.

Trekking in Nepal, with or without a pack, entails climbing steeply for four or five hours (give or take an hour or two) to a village on a mountain top, climbing steeply down the other side, crossing a river—usually but not always with the help of a bridge of sorts—climbing steeply up to the next village on a mountain top and so on until you get to wherever it is you've decided to go. If you've de-

***'At the top of the next steep climb was a one-table, four-chair, outdoor restaurant and a tiny shop window with a chocolate cake on display and a sign that said, "EAT DESSERT NOW—LIFE IS SO UNCERTAIN".'***

covered in snow and the sun shines all day long. Occasional clouds or valleys of mist only enhance the splendour. Of course, it's cold in the shade in the daytime and very cold at night but that's what thermal underwear and down jackets are for. And if you can't wash as the water doesn't run because the streams are frozen, who cares? You can wash later if you feel like it when the sun is shining and the ice has melted.

The air over Kathmandu, unfortunately, was neither brisk nor clear when we arrived from Bangkok and the sky was a smoggy grey. We instantly decided to trek first and sightsee in Kathmandu later. The domestic terminal was only a few minutes' walk away and having convinced a small crowd of enthusiasts that we did not require transport, a guide or porters to get there, we went in procession with the sceptics and the optimists and enquired about flights to Pokhara. Within the hour we were in a small plane with 16 empty folding seats and two other passengers, being offered cotton wool to stuff in our ears and barley sugar to suck. A 40-minute, scenic flight later we were in Pokhara. An indulgence, flying like that, but we were in a hurry to get our trekking permits and be on our way. I assure you that at the end of the trek we travelled soberly and cheaply back from Pokhara to Kathmandu by bus in seven hours for \$4.50.

In Pokhara, alas, we couldn't get our trekking permits in a hurry because it was too late when we arrived and the next day was Saturday and a holiday. We hired bicycles while we waited and rattled round the lakeside to the foot of the nearest mountain with a village on top. We thought that we should get a bit of practice before starting the trek proper. About halfway up I climbed for a while with

she was listening by then. I was honestly trying to cheer her up. I don't know how far they went or how she felt at the end of her day but I felt fine at the end of mine.

We queued for our trekking permits on Sunday, engaged a porter (brother of the cook at the hotel at which we were staying), hired a taxi for six o'clock on Monday (taxi-driver—the cook's cousin!) and were ready. The next morning, after an hour's mountain drive to New Bridge (about \$12), we left the taxi, crossed a footbridge over a river to roadless Birehanti and started to walk towards the Annapurna Sanctuary—steeply upwards, of course.

***Right, Nepali children watch the world (and lots of sweaty trekkers) go by at Pisang, Manang Valley, Annapurna region.***

***Pages 32 and 33, part of the charm of Nepal is walking along tracks which have been the local communication and freight routes for centuries. The supplies of the local people and the staples and luxuries expected by Western trekkers reach their destination on the backs of myriad teams of porters. Snapshots, colourful scenes of local industry. John Chapman***







On the second night of our trek we met a middle-aged, long-haired, long-bearded Englishman with one leg. The other had been removed at the hip three years ago. Where were we going, he wanted to know. Ah, the ABC, he said rather wistfully; he wished he could go there, too. ABC stands for Annapurna Base Camp, which is in the Annapurna Sanctuary and is 4130 metres above sea level. At this altitude the air is thin and it is not unusual for walkers nearing the Base Camp to pause and pant between each slow-motion step. It's the

last stop for mountaineers before they set off to climb the surrounding peaks of the Annapurna Range.

It had always been his dream to trek in Nepal said the one-legged man. I admired his nimbleness with one leg and two sticks but couldn't bear to think of him making his way up and down all those uneven and awkwardly steep steps. He was accompanied by a cheerful guide who had greying hair and a steel-ribbed back support and was doubling as a porter.

I forgot about the one-legged man for the next three weeks but we met him again when our trek was over and we were back in Pokhara. I was proud of getting to the Base Camp with my 63 years but, yes, he'd got there too with his one leg. It had taken him twice as long and worn him out but he'd got there. His guide looked fit and well and as cheerful as ever.

'Did you enjoy yourself?' people asked me when I got back to Australia. Of course I enjoyed myself. Labouring up steep steps in the sun hour after hour was not always enjoyable but getting to the top of each mountain—sorry, foothill—with magnificent views and a downhill stretch to look forward to certainly was.

Eating was enjoyable, too. We usually walked for an hour or two before breakfast. Then we'd stop at some two-bench, open-air restaurant hanging out over a magical valley and sit with the early-morning sun warming our backs and decide whether to have 'PunCHED' or Scrambled Eggs or perhaps a 'Cheese Omelette'. We'd wonder if they had 'Bread Rools' at this time of the morning. Perhaps I'd have Oat's Porridge with milk again. Once when I'd asked for porridge with milk, a brown little daughter of the house had hopped down the terraced hillside with her baby sister on her back and milked the family buffalo into her dish. Milk for my porridge. She'd beamed up at me as she came hopping back up the hill with it. Her perfect teeth were as white as buffalo milk. Of course I enjoyed myself.

I enjoyed having a hot shower. Every 'Fooding and Lodging' place offered 'Hot Showers Here' or 'Real Hot Showers Here' or 'Solar Heater Very Hot Showers' or 'Really Hot Running Water 24 Hours a Day'. They all had solar panels so it could have been true. For my first hot shower I took my clothes off in the draughty, cement-floored, outside cubicle with its glassless window and mountain view and turned on the hot water. Nothing. Philosophically, as I was already undressed, I decided to wash in cold water. Shrieking under my breath, I soaped myself with water from the cold water tap. It dribbled to nothing before I could rinse the soap off. For my second hot shower I checked with the lodge keeper first. 'Hot shower?' I asked. 'Yes, yes.' Beaming smile, perfect teeth. 'Solar heating. Hot shower.'

In the draughty, cement-floored etc, etc I took off my clothes, turned on the hot shower and, bingo, warm water. 'I'll shampoo my hair while I wait for it to get hot', I thought happily. The warm water lasted till my head was a meringue and then turned icy cold. There weren't any other trekkers in the lodge

## Annapurna Sanctuary

### Facts to go, by John Chapman

The Annapurna Range is about 200 kilometres north-west of Kathmandu. The nearest major town is Pokhara, which is Nepal's second-largest city. Regular plane and bus services operate daily from Kathmandu to Pokhara.

The big attraction of this region of Nepal is that this is where the foothills of the Himalayas are both narrowest and lowest. Accordingly, there are many excellent views of the high mountains and they start immediately. No walking here for five days before seeing any mountains.

Various trekking locations are available around the Annapurnas. Even short treks of three or four days are worth while. Allow 11 to 12 days for the return trek into Annapurna Sanctuary. Another popular trek is a return trip through the huge Kali Gandaki valley to Jomsom and Mukti; allow about seven days each way or return by aeroplane from Jomsom. The big trip of the area is the circuit of the entire Annapurna Range. This requires 18 days of walking and should be done in an anticlockwise direction. Due to snow, the circuit is normally closed during winter.

### What is trekking?

This is not bushwalking. Trekking in Nepal is walking through the hills following local tracks and absorbing the culture of the villages. For many, the major attraction is the fantastic views of the Himalayan mountains but most also appreciate the simpler life of the Nepali people.

### Types of trekking

Do not come here carrying your own pack with tent and self-contained food supply. Westerners are regarded as being rich (by Nepalese standards all westerners are rich) and are expected to contribute to the local economy.

The most common trekking method for individuals is to use the 'tea-house' system. These shelters are probably better described as lodges or cheap hotels and provide meals and accommodation. Advantages are that they are cheap (up to \$A20 a day) and you can be flexible and not have an itinerary. Disadvantages are that you are limited to the popular trekking areas or trade routes where lodges are.

At the other extreme is the organised trekking group which carries tents, cooking equipment and most food; you sleep in tents and Sherpas prepare all meals. You only need to carry a day pack. This trek style still contributes to the local economy by employing local

people and by the purchase of fresh food. There are also several styles of trek in between the two extremes.

### When to go

The most popular seasons are autumn (October and November) and spring (March and April). These have the best weather and the high passes are usually open. My favourite season is winter (December to February) as the dry winter weather offers excellent views of the high peaks.

### Safety

Recommended immunisations for visiting Nepal are for typhoid, tetanus, polio, Meningococcal meningitis and hepatitis A and B. Drink only treated or well-boiled water and eat only freshly cooked food. Tap water is never safe to drink or to use for brushing teeth.

The Nepalese people often go to great lengths to satisfy Western tastes in food. However, it is best to avoid salads, peeled fruit, milk, chhang (local beer) and food such as pies that have been cooked earlier.

Annapurna Sanctuary is the only major trekking route in Nepal that has a significant avalanche danger. Trekkers have been killed—take advice from local villagers as to how safe the route through the entrance gorge to the sanctuary is. Another problem in the Annapurna region is the stealing of cameras and other expensive gear. Carefully watch all valuables.

### Maps and guidebooks

The best-known guide is *Trekking in the Nepal Himalaya* by Stan Armitage. Published by Lonely Planet, it's available worldwide. In Nepal there are several maps, all with very rough contours (1000 metres) and showing only major tracks. The Annapurna Conservation Area Project map or the Mandala trekking maps are as good as any. Due to avalanches and floods, tracks regularly change so place more faith in the villagers than the maps.

### Permits

Visas are required and can be obtained on arrival. Costs start from \$US30 for 60 days. For the Annapurna region, trekking permits are no longer required but a fee of 2000 rupees (about \$A58) must be paid in Pokhara. This is for entry into the Annapurna Conservation Area.

Bushwalking writer John Chapman has been contributing to *Wild* since issue one. His favourite place is still Tasmania although he regularly visits all other Australian States.

*Nilgiri peak rears up through the clouds above a monastery in the Kali Gandaki valley. At just over 7000 metres, this peak is small fry compared with the summits of Annapurna which rise beyond.*



to blame for using all the hot water. I suppose the family had used it. Who'd wash clothes, dishes or themselves in cold water if hot were available?

I grew cunning. I would ask the lodge keeper, 'Hot water?' 'Yes, yes', he'd say but nevertheless I would turn on the tap before I took my clothes off. Sometimes, when hot water didn't come, I would tell the lodge keeper, 'No hot water'. Concern. 'Ah, hot water used up. Tank empty.' Or, 'Ah, water frozen up mountain. Sorry'. They would always heat you a bucket of water over the kitchen fire if you really wanted to wash.

I stopped caring after a while. I had an aluminium bottle filled with boiling water every night to put at the bottom of my sleeping-bag and with this boiled, still body-warm bottle of water we could clean our teeth and wash our smelly bits the next morning. Three times *en route* there was hot water in the shower. One unexpected hot shower a week is 20 times more enjoyable than a predictable hot shower every day.

The Nepalese are hardy people. All the fuss trekkers make about hot water must have caused them endless amusement over the years. The villagers wash themselves, their babies, their clothes and their pots and dishes in cold water, often at 6 am and usually outside in the chilly air at public washing places. Only bad-mannered trekkers stare.

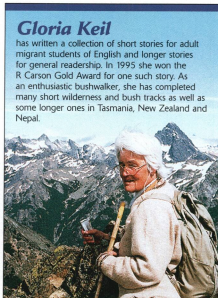
The tracks the trekkers use are those the Nepalese use. Children skip past on their way to school—two or more hours away for some—traders go past with their strings of loaded animals; and buffaloes, cows, yaks and dogs treat you courteously as you edge past them in narrow places. Flocks of sheep and goats flow past you as you flatten yourself to one side of the track or smoothly around you if you don't. Medics pass with big cool-boxes of vaccine on their backs. Teachers pass, sometimes slowing to walk beside you for a while to talk in careful English. Women pass, bent under baskets of firewood or animal fodder or rocks for building, or with nothing more on their backs than a sleeping baby in a shawl. Porters pass, with anything that local businesses, individuals or trekking groups have hired them to carry. And, in between, chickens roost fatly in the sun beside the track as though nothing would ever make them move.

Of all the material that travelled along those mountain tracks on the backs of men, I don't think I'll ever forget the hollow, metal telegraph poles cut into carrying sections, any one of which would have been impossible for me to lift off the ground at all. Or the three enormous, hessian-wrapped bales of wool that joggled one behind the other through a crowded market-place, leaning like tired, angular giants from another world. Or the three-to-four metre long building timbers. Old men carried one each. Young men carried three. The top beam was always shorter, either for balance or because there was a recognised limit to how much weight even the youngest and strongest could carry.

Our porter—who left an hour or two after us each morning and sometimes passed us during the day—carried about 20 kilos. I felt sorry for him, too, but by comparison with

the carriers of building material his load was light, working conditions excellent and pay generous. [See info on page 16.] He carried our 20 kilos and a light rucksack for himself. In it he kept his gloves and woolly cap when he wasn't wearing them and a pair of track pants to put on while he was washing everything else and waiting for it to dry. I am pleased to say that when we had to cross a shallow but wide and rushing river over ice-covered rocks and our porter got his feet wet, I had a spare pair of socks to give him.

We stood and watched for quite a while at that particular crossing. Oncoming porters either hurried from rock to rock trusting to speed and luck to arrive more or less dry on



### Gloria Keil

has written a collection of short stories for adult migrant students of English and longer stories for general readership. In 1995 she won the R. Carson Gold Award for one such story. As an enthusiastic bushwalker, she has completed many short wilderness and bush tracks as well as some longer ones in Tasmania, New Zealand and Nepal.

the other side, or they slipped off rocks and splashed on through the water, shoes and all, or they took their shoes off before they crossed and coiled their bare feet cautiously around the slippery rocks in the icy water to cross safely. Only one porter fell. His heavy load lay in the water while his arms and legs beated vainly as he tried to right himself. The river poured over him until the next porter reached him and heaved him carefully upright. We took our unencumbered selves across eventually. We kept our solid, well-ridged hiker's boots on, tested every step with our sticks and went across like animated snails. It was quite exciting, and such a good feeling once we were over. When we watched from the other side as more people crossed it looked easier, of course. A proper suspension bridge spans the river a short way along from where we crossed but the track up to it had been part of a recent landslide. A new track will be there by now.

At the top of the next steep climb was a one-table, four-chair, outdoor restaurant and a tiny shop window with a chocolate cake on display and a sign that said, 'EAT DESSERT NOW—LIFE IS SO UNCERTAIN'. I was tempted to believe that the sign was related to the river crossing below but I don't suppose it was.

At a New Year's Eve party a week after our return, I was asked what was most memorable about the trip. Without thinking I answered,

'The spelling on the menus'. I would like to take that back. I loved the spelling on the menus but would describe it merely as 'memorable'. Who could resist Milistrony Soup, Lazania, Spaghti, Vegetable Culetts, Scrumble Eggs, Chinese Chopsey, Egg Noodle Soup, Buff Chilly or Kantiki Fried Chicken with Apple Fitters or Filtders for dessert—or even Rice Puding—eaten in the Dinning Room, of course.

'Most memorable' better describes the heart-stopping, mountain-brushing flight from Jomsom to Pokhara at the end of the trek. The plane took 20 passengers and was full. While the foreigners craned their necks to all sides to stare, gasp and exclaim, the Nepalese were calm. My neighbour across the aisle, however, kept her eyes tightly closed, her head down and a grip on the seat in front that kept her brown knuckles white for the entire trip. I wondered whether she knew something that we didn't or merely had a more vivid imagination. Our porter identified mountains for us, pointed out tracks we'd walked along, villages in which we'd spent a night and valleys we'd crossed. Days of walking disappeared behind us in minutes.

At Pokhara airport they no longer sound a siren to warn people and their animals off the runway when a plane is about to land. A lot has changed in 20 years.

Despite thousands of foreigners trekking through their villages, the Nepalese remain friendly. 'Namaste', they say in greeting or response as you pass them on the track. Twenty years ago the children would hover round with their hands out and say, 'Namaste, metal (sweets)?' or 'Namaste, school pen?' but very few do it now. The Nepalese government decided that tooth decay, begging and pestering tourists were undesirable and discouraged all three by asking tourists not to give. Some tourists can't resist so some children still ask—but not if their parents can see them.

Towards the end of our trip we passed a teenager with a sense of humour. I think he must have been a very persistent beggar for sweets and school pens when he was younger.

'Namaste', we said as we manoeuvred past him and his donkey. 'Namastebuggeroff', he replied, smiling, and when we looked at him, startled, he slapped his donkey and laughed and shrugged as if to say, 'I couldn't resist it'.

I think that's how my husband feels about Nepal. He has managed to go there several times since we were first there together 20 years ago. He can't resist it.

For the safety of trekkers there are police checkpoints along the routes where you record your details. Sometimes we'd look down the columns to see how many had passed that day, where they'd come from and how old they were. They were mostly a lot younger than we but some were older and we found one who was seventy-one. My husband's eyes gleamed when he saw this.

I enjoyed my trekking experience. It was good to find that I could still do what I did 20 years ago even if it took a bit longer each day to do it, but what will I say a couple of years from now when my husband says we should go trekking in Nepal again before we get too decrepit? ☺



# Kakadu

*Andrew Cox discovers a world of rock, water and lushness*



*At the lip of Jim Jim Falls (Barrkmalam). The plunge pool far below leads to the broad South Alligator River flood plain.*





**Above**, a terraced cascade feeding into the flood plain. **Left**, Jim Jim Falls drops 170 metres from the Arnhem Land Plateau into a plunge pool. The photo was taken at the end of the wet season. By September, Jim Jim Creek is a mere trickle of water again.



Andrew Cox has been a keen photographer of Australian natural landscapes for 15 years, and has been a special adviser to *Wild* since 1993. As the Executive Officer of the National Parks Association of New South Wales he attempts to influence the permanent protection of the areas he photographs and, in particular, the few remaining woodlands of central west NSW.



# Exploring Jim Barrett

## Sandy Holmes introduces this humble Blue Mountains pioneer and historian

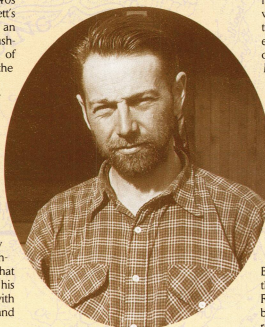
**JIM BARRETT HAS WRITTEN NINE BOOKS** and countless articles relating to exploration, bushwalking and the Blue Mountains, New South Wales. His perspective comes from his vast experience bushwalking in the 1940s and 1950s. The time I spent reading Barrett's books and talking with him gave me an insight into the development of the bushwalking movement as well as a wealth of information about the early days of the Blue Mountains.

Born in 1923, Barrett grew up in Sydney in the Depression and was fortunate to stay at school until he was fourteen. He completed the Intermediate Certificate with the assistance of three bursaries acknowledging his abilities. By the age of 15 he was working and studying law by night, but the outbreak of war put an end to his dream of becoming a lawyer. When he was demobilised from the Australian Imperial Force at 23 he was at a loss: like many other veterans he found himself bushwalking, and so discovered a passion that would eventually lead to the writing of his books. Barrett began his adventuring with the Catholic Bushwalking Club (CBC), and through the club met his wife, Pat.

The Catholic bushwalkers of 1947 had their own particular challenges. Their peers included the Sydney Bush Walkers, the Coast and Mountain Walkers (see profile in *Wild* no 66), and the Warrigals who were undertaking adventurous weekend walks in the Blue Mountains. In order to take part in these longer walks members of the CBC had to complete them in one day, to be back for their Mass obligation on Sunday mornings. Barrett recalled doing Jenolan to Katoomba in a day. Through walks like this the Catholic bushwalkers inadvertently set a standard in high-speed bushwalking.

There was occasional respite from this pressure to return for Mass. In 1940 five priests with a penchant for bushwalking built a chapel and a shack on Scotts Main Range, on the New Years bend of the Kowmung River. One of these priests was Pat's uncle. In 1943 a meeting of the priests and the CBC widened the club's bushwalking opportunities. The priests enabled the bushwalkers to organise overnight stops at the

Shack and near Mass in the Ironbark Chapel before continuing. The Shack became the heart of the Catholic bushwalking movement, a place where generations of Catholic bushwalkers have congregated and camped, where unknown bushwalkers have sheltered from the elements, where the annual CBC marathon still culminates. The first marathon took place in 1953 and was won by Barrett and Hugh Smith.



*A portrait of Jim Barrett, taken in 1955. Jim Barrett collection*

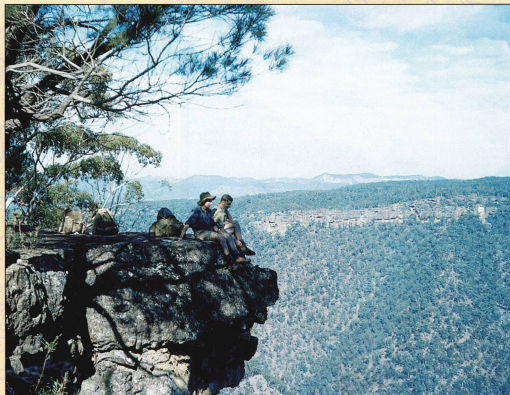
Barrett describes how in those days he would sit for hours reading maps and contemplating routes. Useful maps were difficult to find or simply non-existent. Contoured military maps, one inch to the mile, were often inaccurate and mainly limited to the main mountain ridge. Nevertheless Barrett had knowledge of and access to them and they proved useful where little else was available. As he said, 'it did test you, and it did force a navigational knowledge'. For the southern Blue Mountains there weren't any contour maps and Barrett relied on Myles Dunphy's *Map of the Blue Mountains and Burragorang Valley*. It showed the Burragorang as it was before Warragamba Dam was built, the old roads, farms and churches of the valley, and was an invaluable resource for the writing of Barrett's books. Pat showed

me the map, half a century old, reinforced with flour-and-water glue. It still looks good.

Barrett stresses that much of the true exploration was really done by bushwalkers. He describes the explorations of Gregory Blaxland, Francis Barrallier and Thomas Mitchell's surveyors as just a few tenuous lines across the Blue Mountains map. The explorers were followed by settlers, who developed little pockets of farming communities. Barrett largely credits the bushwalkers with opening up the areas in between. 'Myles Dunphy and Herb Gallop explored the upper Kowmung and many other remote corners of the southern Blue Mountains. Over many years Myles mapped these previously unknown areas. In the Blue Labyrinth it was Harry White and Jack Gibson who explored and mapped the area. The rest of the map was filled in by bushwalkers.' Barrett explains that in the 1940s and 1950s bushwalkers were taking up the threads of those pioneering walkers, a continuing expansion of what Dunphy had started.

In the 1950s advanced bushwalkers were naturally developing an interest in canyoning and rockclimbing. 'We had basic raw skills just from walking', said Barrett. 'You'd come to a rock-face and do the best you could.' He joined the Sydney Rockclimbing Club, taking training in Glenbrook Gorge and at Narrow Neck. Nylon ropes were unknown and initially inch-and-a-half Manila hemp rope (that's the circumference) was their only equipment. 'We were using the old classic method of abseiling which involved a rope coming down through your legs and over your shoulders, with you controlling the rope. The intelligent walkers got their mothers to pad their jackets with a thick wax because behind the shoulder was the main pressure point.' This primitive technique was responsible for many burns, and Barrett's shoulders still bear the scars.

Of these early climbing days, Barrett remembers a small group from the club who had two particular ambitions. One was to climb Tasmania's Federation Peak, first climbed in 1949 (see *Wild* no 73). The other was to go mountaineering in New Zealand. 'My most memorable day walking was on top of Federation Peak in 1954. The south-west of Tasmania is just magic! It's very difficult, well, it was then anyway. One day it took us all day to go two miles up Luckmans Lead on to the Eastern Arthurs.'



***'Barrett is a conservationist, an explorer, a gardener, and a lover of nature. He is also a writer, a researcher, an historian, a photographer, a music lover; an intellectual.'***

***'If you're planning a walk in the southern Blue Mountains, read what Barrett has to say about the history of the area.' Black Dog Rock in the Central Coffs River Basin, 1955. Burragarang Valley is in the background near the horizon. Barrett collection***

The following year Hugh Smith, Iver Pederson, Jack Murphy and Barrett fulfilled their ambition to go mountaineering in New Zealand. They had nylon rope and a better type of abseiling equipment. 'I spent two months climbing in the Mt Cook region which, for an Australian who didn't know snow and ice, was a marvellous experience. One of our members, Frank Cooper, had become a guide there and was very competent, a great natural climber. He had all the skills and we learned very quickly from him. We should have attended a six-month course, but my education lasted about two days down in Arthurs Pass and we all went together to the Mt Cook area.' Cooper and Murphy successfully pioneered many gruelling climbs including the first full double-traverse of the three peaks of Mt Cook. Cloud overtook them on their return from the High Peak, 500 feet [150 metres] from the nearest hut. Cooper fell and was killed, but Murphy made it to the hut and was eventually rescued. Later that year Murphy was teaching abseiling for the CBC in Glenbrook Gorge when the abseil point—a

tree—pulled out of the cliff and he was killed. A plaque was placed in Glenbrook Gorge to commemorate Jack Murphy.

Despite the difficulties, the 1950s were the heyday of the CBC. Barrett speaks fondly of the great friendships, arduous adventuring and magnificent landscapes that marked this time. The challenges never stopped. When Barrett first joined, a ban on mixed camping existed, a condition that resulted in the resignations of many club members. Eventually the ban was relaxed.

According to his wife, Barrett was so shy that it took him eight years to ask her out. He agrees that he was—and still is—'painfully shy'. Nevertheless, they eventually married in 1956 and started a large family. Their involvement in the CBC was gradually reduced to make time for the demands of family life although Barrett still wrote articles for the club magazine *The Waysider*. While bush-walking in Glenbrook they discovered the patch of land where they would build their house. 'There was no road here then', his wife recalled. 'The beds and the tables and chairs were all put



on wheelbarrows and we'd push them through the bush to bring them down here.' In terms of bushwalking, Barrett describes the 1960s and 1970s as his 'dormant period' although clearly he engendered a great love of wilderness in his children. The six Barrett 'kids' have become keen bushwalkers and climbers.

In 1976 Barrett had to retire from his job as a clerk with the Sydney County Council. He speaks highly of the Glenbrook doctor who recognised his stressed and anxious state as war neurosis. In 1980 this diagnosis came with the advice: 'Get back to walking.' Barrett describes what ensued. 'It was well over 25 years since I had really walked, but my condition was pretty good. Living here in Glenbrook, you walk through a little chimney in the rim rocks and you're in the National Park. I decided to walk out to The Oaks and north to Woodford. My intention was to return home by train, but when I reached Woodford I decided to return via my outward route. Later I worked out that it was 58 kilometres. I wore out a pair of sand-shoes; I walked so much I wore them out over one walk.' This heralded Barrett's return to serious bushwalking.

With this reintroduction to the wilds Barrett experienced the canyons. In the 1950s Arethusa was the only accessible canyon recognised, and Barrett was among the early adventurers to undertake it. 'In the '60s and '70s those magnificent canyons in the central Blue Mountains from the Grose area north to the Wolgan and the Capertee were opened up, and I did quite a lot of those. That was a bonus that I'll ever be thankful for, coming back to walking when these canyons were discovered.'

Even when Barrett was 60 the 'kids' could barely keep up. Since then husband and wife have again traipsed their beloved mountains and taken a stream of visitors to Kanangra and the Shack. This new lease of life sparked a resurgence in Barrett's writing for *The Waysider*.

Barrett has written consistently for the club magazine and contributed extensively to the anniversary volumes of *The Catholic Bushwalker*. These publications contain countless interesting articles and you don't need to be Catholic to find them fascinating reading. Barrett's name appears under some photographs and articles, but I began to recognise his writing in many unsigned articles. I asked him about this and he replied: 'I have no need to splatter my name all over these documents.'

Barrett's first book was meant to be a six-page article about the Shack. In 1990 it evolved and was published as *The Shack Country and Old Burrarorang*. He said that after this book was published his brain was spilling over with information and he felt compelled to write more. One of the sources of this information was the mail that flooded in from readers of his first book.

For six years Barrett's books tumbled out. *Cox's River* was the next in 1993. This,

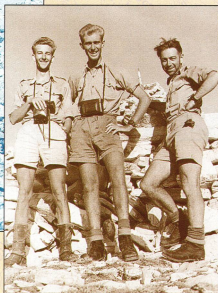
getters and early explorers. More stories of the settlers and explorers unfold in *Kanangra Walls and Place Names of the Blue Mountains and Burrarorang Valley*, both published in 1994.

As affirmed by the latter book, place-names hold a deep fascination for Barrett. He recounted that 'the ten months it took me to write that book were a wonderful experience, tracking down one after another the names I didn't know'. Barrett discovered the origins of about 1200 names, but a few important ones eluded him. Scott for Scotts Main Range, Harry of Harrys River and Boyd of the Boyd Range remained unestablished at the time of publication.

For much of the nomenclature Barrett relays stories of the people and events for which the wild places of the southern Blue Mountains were named. 'Most of the names have a bushwalking origin, many of them contributed by Myles himself. Of course, he was an obsessive name giver', explained Jim. 'In the early 1900s Myles appeared on the scene and the great walkers followed him, particularly Gordon



**Iver Pedersen, Barrett and Jack Murphy on the Tasman Glacier en route to the Malte Brun Hut, New Zealand Alps, 1955. The photographer, Frank Cooper, perished in February of that year while descending Mt Cook in bad weather and poor visibility after making the first full double-traverse with Murphy. Nine months later Murphy died while training club members in rockclimbing and abseiling in Glenbrook Gorge, Blue Mountains.**



**John Chalk (left), Ted Plowman and Barrett on top of Frenchmans Cap, western Tasmania, 1953. Barrett's 'most memorable' day of walking came the following year when he reached the top of Federation Peak. Barrett collection**

Barrett's favourite, is unfortunately out of print and difficult to find. Next came *Kowmung River*, peppered with wonderful photographs and a wealth of stories relating to Colong Caves, the battle for the native forest of the Boyd Plateau, gold-diggers, cedar

Smith, Max Gentle and members of clubs like the Warrigals, the Sydney Bush Walkers and the Mountain Trails Club. Those names will live forever in Davies Canyon, Gordon Smith Chimney, Rudders Rift and Gentles Sheardown... With the bushwalkers' gradual



infiltration of the Blue Mountains came also the basis of bushwalking nomenclature.'

*Yerranderie—Story of a Ghost town and Life in the Burratorang* were both published in 1995. The first time Barrett set foot in Yerranderie he and Hugh Smith had walked there from Kanangra by way of Mt Guouogang, Coxs River, the Kowmung, Scotts Main Range and Byrnes Gap. Barrett describes Yerranderie in 1949 as 'still clinging to the

If you're planning a walk in the southern Blue Mountains, read what Barrett has to say about the history of the area. His books make great campfire reading and lead to lots of entertaining conversation.

I asked Barrett whether he would write any more books: 'No...er...the Katoomba book was the last one. One or two little books associated with the club I'll probably do if I get time.' He



**Above,** Catholic bushwalkers on the verandah of the Shack, Scotts Main Range, Blue Mountains, 1951. Built in 1940, the Shack and the Ironbark Chapel enabled walkers to stay overnight and hear Mass on Sunday mornings. Barrett is at far right in the middle row. Dud O'Gara. **Left,** Barrett spent two months climbing in the Mt Cook region of the New Zealand Alps in 1955. In this photo the party is negotiating a snow arete during the descent from Mt De La Beche. Jack Murphy

glorious days of the silver/lead boom, yet within a decade of being quite lifeless'. The decline of Yerranderie was quickly ensured by the flooding of the Burratorang Valley. The construction of Warragamba Dam not only severed bushwalking access to the southern Blue Mountains from the east, it also cut off Yerranderie's access to Camden. The Burratorang settlers were driven from their homes. Many of the displaced settlers were people known to Barrett. With his return to walking, he felt a need to capture the old-timers' recollections of the Burratorang Valley. His wife said, 'Jim wanted to catch the history from their lips, before they died, and he did'.

*The First Bushwalker—The Story of Fred Eden* (1996) takes a different direction. It tells the story of a Swiss/English traveller who, in 1891, undertook a 65-day walk from Melbourne to Sydney, and walked extensively throughout South Australia, Tasmania and the Blue Mountains.

*Narrow Neck and the Birth of Katoomba* (1996) is the last book in Barrett's series. It describes the attempt to develop Narrow Neck and the battle to preserve it. It records the Aboriginal history, the early European development of Katoomba and the recent changes in vegetation.

explains that writing his books through the 1990s resulted in his other home tasks being seriously neglected. Pat described living with Jim-the-writer. 'Usually there [were] maps all around and you daren't touch anything' 'cause he's getting back to that.' There were constant cries of 'Don't touch that pile' and 'Where's that letter?' Barrett wrote his notes by hand and for years every table and chair was covered with untouchable, half-finished chapters of loose pages, jammed under rocks. 'It was horrible', according to daughter Jo. 'You couldn't open the back door in case the wind blew precious photos from one chapter on to the bundle of another.'

Barrett is a conservationist, an explorer, a gardener and a lover of nature. He is also a writer, a researcher, an historian, a photographer, a music lover; an intellectual. As a war veteran he has overcome harsh experience to make enduring friendships with Germans. Barrett is deeply spiritual, a devout Catholic and has been a member of the CBC for more than 50 years. In the Blue Mountains he has contributed enormously to the exploration and subsequent recording of bushwalking and local history. Jim Barrett's achievements will continue to enhance the experience of bushwalkers for generations to come. 📖

**Sandy Holmes**

lives in the Blue Mountains and has recently completed the Advanced Certificate in Outdoor Guiding. She teaches her two sons at home and they bushwalk frequently, learning about plants, fauna, ecosystems, geology, navigation, safety and local history.

The map used in the background is the *Blue Mountains and Burratorang Valley Department of Lands tourist map* (1937).

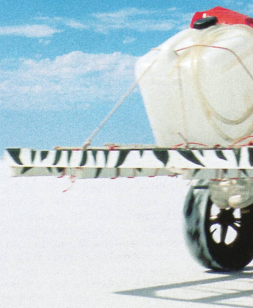
OUTBACK WALKING

# Sirens and Salt Lakes

Greg Pritchard accompanies Australia's best-known 'adventure couple', Jon and Brigitte Muir, on a surreal Australian walk

*A blank page. Tabula rasa. A large, white sheet that stretches in every direction as far as I can see. I write my way across it, 'the archive of walking', fading into the mirage where solidity vanishes and everything floats uncertain.*

*Yet this blank page is not empty. With sharpened awareness I see every grain of salt, every insect entombed in white, every shadow on the lake, every raised lump. In total silence I can hear voices singing. Sirens.*







*Caught between surrealism and minimalism:  
Jon Muir plies his (c)art across Lake  
Gairdner's large, blank canvas under the  
biggest sky imaginable. Even loaded with  
water, provisions and equipment, carts  
make salt-lake travel surprisingly easy.  
All uncredited photos Muir collection*



**YOU MAY CONSIDER YOURSELF AN EXPERIENCED** Australian bushwalker. You've walked the Alps, Tassie, Croajingolong and the Flinders. Nothing, however, will prepare you for this. This is the ultimate Australian walking experience. Australia is the oldest, flattest, driest continent on earth yet most bushwalks take the mountainous, well-watered paths. Like the population, bushwalkers mostly hug the green fringes of the continent.

There isn't anywhere flatter on earth than South Australia's salt lakes. It is the driest part of the driest State on the driest continent. The only water is what you can haul behind you on a cart. Walking across huge salt lakes is the best way to experience Australia's vastness, its aridness, and your own insignificance.

## *'Walking across huge salt lakes is the best way to experience Australia's vastness, its aridness, and your own insignificance.'*

Out here on the lakes any evidence of humanity is mostly tens of thousands of years old, remains from a culture sufficiently ancient to match the land. It is an indication of a people who existed here—from when these desiccated lakes were huge inland lakes teeming with life—until relatively recently.

I have now been fortunate enough to be in these bizarre areas twice, both times in the company of Jon and Brigitte Muir. Three years ago we walked to the lowest part of the continent, the centre of the lower eastern arm of Lake Eyre. Our attempt to walk to the end of the Hunt Peninsula was thwarted by a slush zone that bogged one of the carts. Nevertheless, we walked some 100 kilometres, which included four full days on hard, white salt.

In July last year I returned to South Australia with the Muirs for a short walk on Lake Gairdner and Island Lagoon. In the interim Jon had twice traversed Lake Frome (both axes) and had abated several attempts to wander near Lake Torrens. He had also continued our Eyre walk with an attempt at a south-north crossing followed by an incredible 40-day solo walk down Cooper Creek. He has since been back to Gairdner and has done a south-north and return traverse.

Compared with these trips of Jon's, ours was a pleasure jaunt. At a time when 'adventurers' were drowning in Switzerland and getting lost in the Western Australian desert we were determined that we were just out for a 'little walk'. There was to be no adventure. We had planned adequately and had enough food, and water for 12 days (four litres a day each). All this, and our personal gear, was hauled behind us on two carts, the large super-cruiser with its chunky pneumatic tyres and the smaller baby-cruiser. On this trip—

as we were going in a big circle—we had the luxury of a depot mid-walk where we left 60 litres of water and five days' supplies.

After driving from Natimuk in western Victoria we slept by the road outside Port Augusta in South Australia. The next day we drove along red dirt roads through one property and on to another. We had obtained permission from the owners of stations through which we would drive or walk though while on the lakes we were within National Park boundaries. We spent the whole day establishing the depot and finding our way down farm tracks to the lake.

By the time our vehicle pulled over the last hill, and we could see the lake, I was itching to get started. Immediately it was ob-

vious that Gairdner was different from Eyre. Instead of an empty horizon, cigar-shaped islands were floating in the mirage. It had rained on the way over and Lake Macfarlane, which we had crossed, looked wet. Rain on Eyre had forced us off the lake and made for hard hauling. I was hoping to avoid rain on this trip. From our shore camp there was little sign of hard salt, only a hint of whiteness in the distance, far out in the brown.

As a shitty dawn lit the scene, amid very light rain, the view was none too promising. It looked like a haul out into the mud and after we packed and set off that was what

we found. Before too long the baby-cruiser was hopelessly bogged and we loaded everything on to the super-cruiser and all pulled. A harness system locks one person between the shafts of the cart—the 'ox'—and the others can then pull on ropes to help—the 'huskies'. It took all three of us straining in the harnesses to continue forward momentum, albeit at a speed which would have embarrassed a

glacier.

After 13 long, trudging kilometres the mud began to take on a frosty appearance, covered by a smattering of salt crystals. Before long the covering was total and we pulled up on to hard salt, the best surface on which to walk. It can vary between firm and springy salt and hard concrete. On this the carts can be pulled effortlessly and one person can easily manage 100 kilos. The texture of the salt has amazing variety with crystalline hexagons a metre across, rice grains, buckled salt, brown swirls, and much more.

Because the surface of the lake is so flat the difference between standing and sitting remarkably alters what you can see, and can bring trees into view on the shore. Often you walk towards what looks like a

large log inexplicably lying on the salt only to find that it is just a clump of mud lifted by a camel's hoof. At times I was convinced that flocks of birds were ahead and then discovered that they were slightly raised imprints of kangaroo tracks.

Animals don't seem too worried by the salt and at various times we saw kangaroos,



wallabies, emus and camels casually passing in the mirage. Sheep wander out on to the islands—usually a one-way trip—and goats inhabit some of them. In places the soft salt is a boggy trap; Jon recently found four dead camels. But usually animals treat it as a quick, safe way to travel.

On the first day the salt only lasted a kilometre before we pulled into a little cove on what we dubbed Ruby's Rocky Island on Mars, a very beautiful island composed almost entirely of chunks of red basalt—like many of Gairdner's isles—and ringed by one to two metre high cliffs. The colours of the island, red and green, make it very Pilbaralike in appearance. A resident wallaby population is on the island and kestrels would hang in the warm air.

We quickly unharnessed and raced to the highest point. Below us was one of the most beautiful views I have ever seen. The salt continued unbroken on the other side of the island, a white, swirling expanse that looked like a time-delay film of a harbour, or the top of clouds viewed from a tall



peak. Littered over the shining whiteness are numerous, red islands, like boats in a current. In the distance, cigar-shaped, rise the red peaks of the Cawler Ranges.

As beautiful as Ruby Island is, we left the next day and trekked north on good salt to the large island. Here among the whispering trees we set up camp for two nights. It was

and start again. With a little scouting, however, we found a slightly easier way through. By 'easy' I mean all three of us straining in harness, everything again on one cart. Our walking stocks picked up mud until we were lifting a couple of kilos on each swing, and our shoes weighed even more. I decided on a career in politics—so good did I become at

teemed with life: kangaroos, emus and occasionally sheep. There is a lot of birdlife but it is hard to identify species when hauling the carts; you must always watch your step and are continually plotting the easiest course. There are various trees in the swales including, the map says, 'attractive myalls' although we were not sure which ones they were.



*Though they have both stood on the world's highest summit, Brigitte and Jon Muir cannot resist the lure of one of the globe's lowest places: the salt lakes of inland Australia. Jon calls these lakes 'the sensible person's Antarctica'. Greg Pritchard*

too early in the trip for a rest day although Brigitte took the opportunity to do some reading. Jon woke early and went for a solo 40 kilometre walk to the far shore. I opted for a lighter day, traversing a small archipelago near the island, bagging and naming 11 islands: Mirror Reef, Islay, Red Dome, Potemkin, Dead Sheep, Foil, Kidney, Soft, Black, Boggy Not Much Island, Grey Knob and Little Grey Knob. I then slogged out to the far point through thick mud, taking the easier option along the beach to return.

This cloying mud was worrying. However, we gambled on heading out on to it the next day for the trip to shore rather than face the better known variables of the beach. For a while things went smoothly but then both carts bogged completely: the 'Shoals of Doom'. It looked as though we would have to retrace our steps for ten kilometres

mud-slinging to lighten my stocks. We slogged for an hour, rested, an hour, rest...

One characteristic of salt-lake travel is that distances and sizes are almost impossible to judge. Any one off from the others is quickly dwarfed and made insignificant by the landscape. An island will appear to be miles away and then suddenly rush up at you. The forest on the shore will turn out to be a clump of low bushes. In no time at all (half a day) the shore came to us and we pulled up exhausted on to dry sand and a camp. Everywhere around us, in wind blow outs on the dunes, were worked rock fragments and microliths, evidence of the earlier population of these lakes.

The next few days we followed a series of vegetated 'swales' between big dunes, and along smaller salt lakes. The latter make for easier travel with the carts. The swales

On one patch of shore sand, pulling the super-cruiser on my own I tweaked my Achilles', which slowed me down. That night I was depressed thinking that I would not be able to continue. With care, stretching, aspirin, and Voltaren four times a day I was able to continue. My foot, though, was confused with the mixed message; rub on anti-inflammatory, then walk 20 kilometres?

Midway down the chain of lakes we came to our depot, a chance to get clean socks and more weight for the carts. We left a smaller depot and headed down to Salt Creek, a mostly dry creek-bed that runs for over 50 kilometres into Island Lagoon. The walk down it is a treat. We had left the super-cruiser and went with packs and only the baby-cruiser loaded with water. The creek winds its way down little gorges and open clay pans. We saw goats and dingoes (by the

time we returned this area had been baited for the latter). There were large pools of salty water and many dead goats that had tried to drink from them—a reminder of the consequences of being out here unprepared.

The name of our objective, Island Lagoon, suggests deck-chairs, hula girls and pina colodas. The reality is far more beautiful; a wide, brown bay and a large, white lake that stretches across to the Stuart Highway. On it are four conical islands, the largest of

water for a rest day. After discussion we decided that we could string the food out for another day and, if we could spend a day without drinking more than two litres each, we would have enough water to get back to the supplies at the super-cruiser.

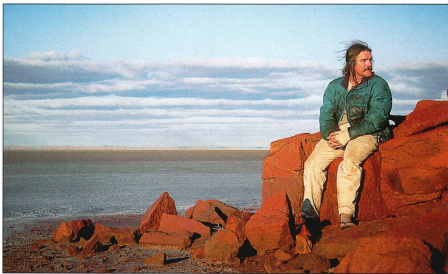
I spent the morning lying in the dust of camp talking to Jon and eyeing my water-bottle. We could not walk around too much, or get hot, or we would get thirsty. In the end we managed easily, but it gave us some idea of what it would be like to run out of water, something I'm sure I want to avoid.

How often in Australia do you get to stare at your destination for the entire 26 kilometres of your day's walk? This is what we did on Island Lagoon. A large, dark spot on Nedlebutanyie was our target and after a day's walk over salt and mud we could see that it was a small clump of trees halfway up the island, the Eagle's Eyrie (there was an old eagle's nest there complete with feral cat skull), which turned out to be the perfect camp-site. When we climbed up from the lake we could look back and see that in most places we had missed the good, hard salt.

*'How often in Australia do you get to stare at your destination for the entire 26 kilometres of your day's walk?'*

which—Nedlebutanyie—is a big, volcano-shaped peak rising a staggering 90 metres from the salt. While that may not sound much, let me assure you that with the weird perceptions you get on the salt it does indeed look huge.

Before we could venture out on to the Lagoon we had to spend a day in limbo. Brigitte's ankle was hurting and she needed to rest it but we had not budgeted enough



*The vivid and varied colours of the islands are an incredible contrast to the subtle hues of the salt. Jon Muir on the shore of Ruby's Rock Island on Mars, looking back at the day's track.*

## Adventures in my own backyard

Jon Muir tells Greg Pritchard about his interest in Australia's salt lakes and deserts

### How long have you been going out on the salt lakes?

A long time. When I first came to (Mt Arapiles, Victoria) in March 1980, I saw the salt lakes and went to their edge. They looked interesting. In March 1985 I first crossed Mitre Lake with Geoff Little, HB (Malcolm Matheson) and Lydia Bradey (after an unsuccessful attempt with HB and Tony Dignan several days before) on planks, which were a bit like skis. I then used cross-country skis and made several traverses on the softer Wimmera lakes. My thoughts turned to Lake Eyre back then. We were due to go in 1989 but the lake filled and I didn't make it until 1996. So I guess I've been traversing salt lakes for 15 years.

### Was the Lake Eyre trip your first trip to the deserts?

No, I'd done a number of small trips, to Uluru and Mootwingee (National Park). My first long trip was in 1995 with Kevin Rohrlach and Louise Shepherd. Kev was 70 and he'd been a client on Aconagua. He said he'd always wanted to walk across the Simpson and would I be interested? I'd just finished Warren Bony-

thon's book on walking the Simpson and said yes. We planned it in the mess tent at Aconagua Base Camp.

### Had Kevin Rohrlach been around Eyre before?

Yes, Kev had established land-speed records on Lake Eyre before Donald Campbell. A lot of them on motor bikes. Some of the records still stand. Campbell had got him on side as his adviser before he even got out here.

### Have you changed your focus from mountains to salt lakes?

No, not really. I've done some big sea-kayak trips and a polar walk (See Info, *Wild* no 721 as well as the salt lakes. I spend more time walking off the lakes in the outback than on them. I couldn't go to Aconagua last year because of the walk to the [south] pole. I'm not sick of mountains but my preference is for more desert trips—they're simpler. You just travel down the road, I don't have to get on a plane of which I'm scared and travel to the other side of the world where people speak a different language.

I also like the desert trips because they are safer. There's very little danger on the outback

trips. All wilderness areas are a trap for young players but if you're prepared and have a bit of common sense, they should be very safe.

I'm not sick of the mountains; it's more that I'm getting into Australia, learning to survive in this environment. The sea kayak and the carts are tools that allow me to get to where I want to go.

### What are the rewards of doing desert trips?

Similar to those in the mountains, I suppose. I think people are just blown away by the outback, getting away from where the four-wheel-drives go, and just having an adventure. Part of the reward is that the more effort you put in, the more you get out of it. It's amazing how much more you see when you are on foot. When you're in a four-wheel-drive it's like being in a spaceship. You land occasionally and have a look around but you miss a lot of the subtleties of where you are travelling.

Australia has amazing wilderness areas. The potential for adventures in Australia is almost unlimited. You don't have to spend a fortune to go overseas. I think it would be healthy if more Australians went on adventures in their own backyard.





*Though it is difficult, life on salt is not impossible. Spiders and other insects live there and large mammals such as kangaroos, emus and camels cross it at will. The latter can sometimes be seen shimmering in the distance like ghostly caravans.*

On Island Lagoon once again the silence turned into music and voices. Sirens calling me to Nedlebutanyie. At one point, did the chorus sound like the Bronski Beat? Was I going mad? No, I realised that Brigitte had that particular group on her personal stereo and I was catching little strains of it. Normally, though, the music did not come from her stereo equipment but seemed just at the edge of hearing, no doubt the symphony of wind and blood in my ears. Everything was amplified; the straw on my water-bottle made noises in the wind. At one point I was convinced that a helicopter was behind me but it was just my scarf flapping in the breeze.

We spent a wondrous night on top of Nedlebutanyie, a place even more beautiful than Ruby Island, if that were possible. The island is quite steep and you feel as though you are on a magic carpet, floating over clouds. As the sun sets, the salt glows white. On the closest shore, a mere ten kilometres away, the lights of the Woomera Prohibited

Area were busy. The shore there, in failing light, looks soft and ancient, shadowy gullies cutting through brown hills. I was reminded that we don't own the land, we merely visit it for a short time.

To the west huge hulks of remnant hills rise from the plains; the largest and furthest south is South Oakden Hill. Hawks and swallows played in the air that gusted the island's sides, kangaroos grazed the base. At one point four emus glided in below us, like ballet dancers on ice-skates, and proceeded to pick around the base of a very green clump of pittosporum. Our limited supplies allowed us some tortillas and salsa, washed down with wishful thoughts of the bottle of Stone's Mac we'd carefully transferred to a plastic bottle, then left in the car. We hadn't taken a tent but there was enough flat sand at the Eagle's Eyrie for the three of us, comfortable in a 'Million Star Hotel'.

Before I'd left on the trip I'd had a nightmare about being killed by lightning and

when the next day dawned dark and foreboding I was out of there. I'm not normally worried too much by thunderstorms but I knew from experience on Lake Eyre that there are few places where you feel as exposed in a storm as in the middle of a salt lake. I hammered the walk back to camp, sticking to better salt. 'Better' does not do it justice, however. This was some of the most beautiful salt I have ever seen—pink and yellow, looking by turns like freshly forked smoked salmon or delicate soap flakes. It was a joy to travel over, particularly as the storm proved to be a false alarm.

For the next few days we retraced our steps, gradually reacquainting ourselves with stores and equipment until we arrived back at the depot. On our last day Jon and I walked 20 kilometres down salt lakes and swales to the car. We both stood atop a large dune to look back into the magic space of Lake Gairdner. Jon was planning to return in only two weeks. I stared out at the mirage, wishful, my writing on this page over for now.

It took most of that day to retrieve the depot, Brigitte and our equipment and to find our way out along the farm roads. This was followed by a pleasant cuppa and chat with the property owners. We arranged permission for one final spot of exertion, a quick ascent of South Oakden Hill. This rises some 160 metres just off the road and is composed of millions of interesting lumps of rock, each with a hole or blob on it. I searched frantically for one with an image of Elvis or Christ but to no avail, the best shape I found was that of a penguin.

## Greg Pritchard

has been, among other things, a climber, journalist, security guard, chef, poet, dishwasher, grape picker, publisher, editor, rat killer, climbing instructor and wheat silo operator. His most recent endeavours are as a PhD student in literature and a desert salt-lake enthusiast.



It was great to sit on the top of this hill and look out over Island Lagoon to the island we had climbed. All around us the plains stretched out, looking much like a Fred Williams painting.

Walking salt lakes is truly an incredible experience. Jon calls it 'a sensible person's Antarctica'. Not even a bad counter meal, being rained on in the Port Augusta caravan park, a wet trip home and the fact that we got all our cameras stolen in Augusta could diminish the experience we had shared, particularly when the police found our cameras.

On the long, wet drive back I stared out of the window at the landscape. It became greener the further south we went. I already missed the subtle hues of the desert, the purity of the salt lakes. There can be no finer walking experience in Australia than writing your way across a blank, white sheet, the haunting siren songs ringing in your ears. ●



# UNFINISHED

*'A short distance beyond the summit at a wonderful, natural lookout, we took in the spectacular vista. We babbled like idiots at our good fortune in having such an unspoiled and rarely visited wilderness all to ourselves.'* Wild founding Director Brian Walters restores his composure for the obligatory photo. All photos Chris Baxter collection

**IN ONE SENSE THE REDISCOVERY OF A SCHOOL-**boy journal in a battered old exercise book was the impetus for the trip. It told of the fulfilment of a childhood dream to climb East Gippsland's Mt Tambo. This was achieved with my mother and 12-year-old brother Paul one desperately hot day in January 1962 when I was fifteen. The faded handwriting tells how—equipped with only a small water-bottle between us and some lunch in an old school bag, and lacking even such fundamentals as a map or compass—our unlikely party traced and retraced a route on Mt Tambo's long, untracked South-west Ridge, which rises from Scrubby Creek.

In another sense a return bout was inevitable. Stumbling alone and exhausted on to the rocky eminence that dominates Mt Tambo's most imposing aspect, its southern—or Bindi—side all those years ago, even my wishful optimism couldn't suppress a nagging suspicion that higher ground may lie to the north—impossibly distant and protected by a nightmarish mixture of islands of unscalable boulders in an almost impenetrable sea of scrub. A chance return to the area more than 30 years later, the result of changed holiday plans, settled it.

On that visit (see 'Forgotten Peaks' in *Wild* no 60) my wife Sue and I obtained views of Mt Tambo from surrounding peaks that indeed suggested that Mt Tambo's 'Bindi summit' was somewhat lower than the true summit. Not only that; the two are a disconcertingly long way apart. By that time maps of the area

***'It was with emotion more than from the effort that my chest heaved; in my mind's eye I saw that puny 15-year-old shaking with a heady mixture of excitement, triumph and exertion.'***

were available (even large-scale topographic ones!) which confirmed it. And if we needed further proof, we reached the actual trig point in a long, hot day from the relatively elevated plains of Benambra.

A 1997 traverse with Brian Walters of that little-known section of the Great Divide, the Bowen Mountains (see 'Victoria's Unknown Dividing Range' in *Wild* no 68), entailed a traverse of Mt Tambo by its abrupt western

approach and down its even steeper eastern flank by which I'd first reached its trig point. Tantalising views of Mt Tambo's extensive and entirely untracked north-south aspect obtained on that trip settled it. After 38 years, the return bout was scheduled for the Melbourne Cup Day long weekend last year.

Today, the rough vehicle track to the start of the walk at Scrubby Creek still entails a degree of 'car mountaineering', even by the relatively benign approach through Bindi (private property) with its outstanding views of the snaking spur leading all the way from the creek to Mt Tambo's commanding Bindi summit. Leaving our transport where track, creek and spur converge, it was a case of 'up'. And how!

After an hour we at last reached the top of the steep climb to the top of the spur. Here the ridge flattens out to almost level and there is a large outcrop of rocks. We were very hot but lucky enough to find a small pool in the rocks to cool our faces.

Brian and I found the initial climb no less steep. Despite carrying packs which included

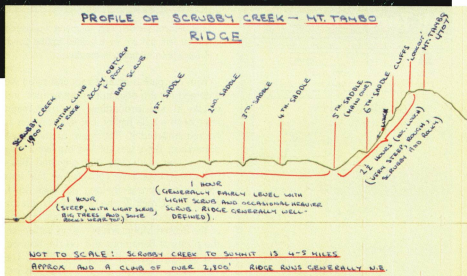
# BUSINESS ON MT TAMBO

After half a lifetime *Chris Baxter* comes full circle on this little-known Victorian Alpine outlier



**Above**, the route of ascent in both 1962 and 1999 (in the middle ground) below a rapidly falling ceiling of cloud. The photo was taken from near Mt Tambo's true summit. The Bindi summit is just out of the photo on the far left. Bindi is the cleared country.

**Right**, the same ridge, as depicted in the author's 1962 schoolboy journal.



food and water for two days, we took just an hour to reach the outcrop. We walked under an overcast sky which threatened rain; perhaps this was just as well for the 'small pool' was nowhere to be seen. But despite much cooler conditions we were sweating profusely, puffing hard and had hoped for a welcome supplement to our precious liquid cargo. Dramatic views of Mt Tambo's imposing and craggy western flank were already appearing through the trees.

very dense scrub which, fortunately, does not last for more than a few hundred yards. This was a real fight and greatly tired us. We passed four small saddles, then the ridge began to climb more sharply. Here another, larger, relatively open saddle is reached about two hours from Scrubby Creek. From here we had our first view of the summit. It looked like a great curling wave of rock. The ridge now rose steeply and we thought that at last we were at the foot of the main climb. However, we were disappointed to arrive at another shallow saddle. But this was definitely the last and there remained only a very steep climb to the summit itself.

Apart from an overgrown helipad in the middle of the long, level section, and lacking evidence of particularly troublesome scrub (probably explained by the fact that at 15 I'd had little experience of off-track walking), the route was remarkably unchanged by the intervening 38 years. Even our times between landmarks were the same. The way ahead, however, did not sound encouraging:

The ridge had now merged to become part of the peak. The scrub was very thick, the ground steep and rocky, and the weather extremely hot. Sitting down for lunch on a large rock, our

The ridge continues in a north-easterly direction, is fairly level and quite well defined, with light scrub. Soon, however, we came to a patch of



meagre supply of water was soon exhausted. After lunch the way became extremely steep. In places the way was guarded by mammoth slabs of rock with dense, prickly scrub in between. Finally, at about 3.00 pm, with the others feeling too exhausted to continue, Mum suggested that they wait while I hurried on to the top alone. Taking only the camera, I set off. Now able to keep more to the rock, I was able to climb faster. But I was beginning to feel exhausted. After 20 minutes the climb ended suddenly, four and a half hours after we'd left Scrubby Creek. I was standing on a rocky shelf overlooking Bindi far below. The actual summit is a big rock in the scrub about 50 yards in from my lookout over Bindi. Mt Bindi was very prominent ahead of me. Bindi lay at my feet like a map. I couldn't see towards the Cobberas because of scrub. The weather was perfect but hot.

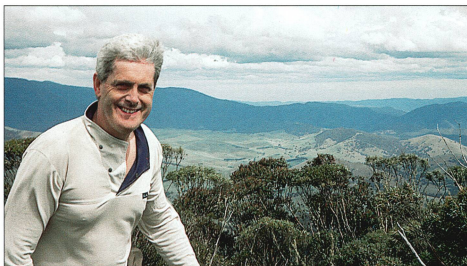
In the event, however, the going was not as fearsome as a 15-year-old's journal might have suggested. Being mostly tea-tree, the scrub was scratchy rather than 'prickly' and not too dense. However, for the most part we were able to avoid it by scrambling carefully up an enjoyable route linking lines of weakness on the slabs. The final slab is indeed imposing, and we avoided it by judiciously using a handy gully which appeared on its left flank. The climb certainly ended suddenly. With little notice we found ourselves on the 'rocky shelf' overlooking Bindi on to which I'd staggered, exhausted, 38 years before. This time, however, it was with emotion more than from the effort that my chest heaved; in my mind's eye I saw that puny 15-year-old shak-

ing with a heady mixture of excitement, triumph and exertion. Despite our loads we had taken a similar time; in fact, quarter of an hour less. However, rather than experiencing enervating heat and dehydration, we were greeted by a cloud ceiling only a short distance above our heads and an icy blast that soon had us diving for a sheltered lunch place behind our exposed pedestal.

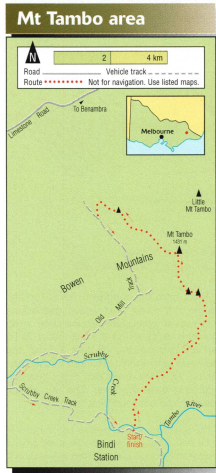
I hurried back down to the other two who were anxious for my return... at last we arrived at the rocks at the top of the final descent. We were so thirsty we drank from the dirty rock-pool. The

ence is only about 130 metres, the map told us that no less than five subsidiary summits had to be traversed in the roughly four kilometres between where we stood on the Bindi summit and the true summit of Mt Tambo. We'd spent four-and-a-quarter hours followed by a three-quarters of an hour break to come this far. Now, at 2 pm, it was time to get moving again.

In fact, the first task was to reach the high point of the Bindi summit—a mighty, isolated boulder only about 50 metres 'inland' from our vantage point but defended by an intimidating-looking mixture of scrub and precipitous



*'Now'; the author on the Bindi summit of Mt Tambo in 1999, with Bindi below. Above right, 'then'; the author's 1962 photo of Bindi from the same place.*



final descent seemed very long and we veered too far left, but we were guided by the Land-Rover's horn sounding in the dusk...

With our parkas on and appetites sated we emerged for the obligatory photographs and to take in our surroundings. The trees might have been a little higher, but it was much as I'd remembered it. The view to the south dominated. Bindi was still laid out like a map at our feet, with Mts Nuniong and Bindi beckoning beyond. We could follow 'our' spur snaking its impressively long way back down to Scrubby Creek. To the north-west, past the Sisters—whom we'd courted on our traverse of the Bowen Mountains two years earlier—lay the plains of Benambra and, on the horizon, the 'big guns' of the Bogong High Plains. The view to the north—the way ahead—was less clear. The land appeared to rise slightly as it buckled under its cloak of green. Occasional rocky outcrops showed through but told us little of the terrain. The western fall, however, was a breathtaking no man's land of plunging cliffs and soaring buttresses with remnants of vegetation clinging optimistically to their flanks. While we hoped to avoid direct confrontation with such obstacles, the way ahead was unknown ground. Would we face long sections of 'impenetrable' tea-tree? What would the navigation be like, particularly if the cloud ceiling were to drop just a hundred metres or so to engulf us? Would we find a camp-site? Where would it be? While the altitude differ-

scrambling. In the event, attaining it was remarkably simple. The scramble down the far side requires caution—this is no place for an accident—but soon we were picking our way through a delightful alpine landscape of twisted snow gums and jagged rocks. The dreaded tea-tree had failed to materialise! Taking every opportunity to spy out the way ahead before the ominous sky would fall on us, yet hardly taking our eyes off the map and compass, we followed the subtly serpentine ridge from landmark to landmark recorded on our precious map. Marvelling at the intricacy of the ridge, and glancing nervously skyward, we scarcely dared to think what a task it might be to find the way in thick cloud. Unexpected changes of direction, broad saddles and an indistinct ridge were the order of the day. But as we continued the way generally became less rocky, the trees bigger and the forest magnificent and ever more open. Occasionally we even detected what appeared to be extremely old blazes, perhaps marking a 19th century route. We did not see any other sign of human presence.

Views are limited, but on the last peak we were to traverse (in fact, it is a double peak) rock reappeared in the form of an imposing buttress. Scrambling up this exciting obstacle we broke clear of the vegetation and were rewarded with dramatic views of scudding, leaden cloud racing in to engulf the Bindi summit where we'd lingered only two hours before. We were now almost in cloud but,

despite our weariness, knew that we were close to the summit.

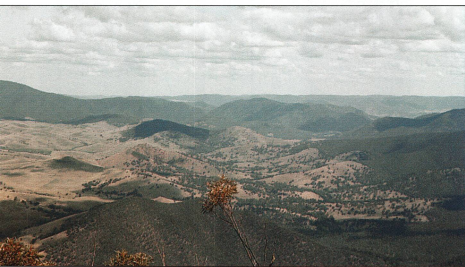
As we approached the summit plateau the temperature dropped appreciably and we were suddenly engulfed in an eerie mist that, while it was not yet 5 pm, suggested that nightfall was imminent. In the featureless void there was nothing for it but religiously to keep to the compass bearing we were now following. Time seemed to stand still. Surely we could not have overshot the summit? Are you sure the land is still rising? Then, just as our doubts might have forced a confused halt for a re-assessment of our position, we recognised

our attention to the navigation diminished with the altitude and we found ourselves having difficulty in getting the map to match the landscape. While we were confident that we were still on the ridge we weren't quite sure just where! Eventually, after testing and rejecting a number of theories, and after a good deal of going to and fro, we decided that the only thing to do was to quit the ridge and head due west on a compass bearing to intersect the four-wheel-drive track (the Old Mill Track) we intended to follow for the rest of that day. Fortunately, we experienced delightful, easy walking leading gradually downhill

years before, below Mt Tambo's West Face. After this it swings south, then south-west, in a staggering emulation of a roller-coaster track—parts of which are the steepest we have seen. Fortunately, the nature of the track must surely deter all but the most gung-ho of the four-wheel-drive fraternity. We had trouble *walking* down some sections! Through the trees we were rewarded with spectacular glimpses of Mt Tambo's craggy western aspect—as imposing as any in the Alps—with the serpentine Scrubby Creek spur defining its southern end in the spur's long climb to Mt Tambo's regal Bindi summit.

Once in the valley we again met Scrubby Creek, at much the same time emerging on what must be some of Victoria's remotest freehold land, complete with a locked, run-down hut and a view of Mt Tambo similar to that of the Viking from the equally remote Wonnangatta Station in the heart of the Victorian Alps.

Turning south-east on the Scrubby Creek Track we soon ran into the only people we'd seen in two days, in the form of a four-wheel-drive convoy heading towards us. Leaving them to raise dust, we followed the track as the shadows lengthened to mark the end of a perfect day. As we walked we discussed whether we would make the effort to reach the car, now only a few kilometres away, and



features in the immediate vicinity of the summit. A little steep bit, and there it was, the unmistakable reassurance of the trig point! We retraced our steps 50 metres to a flat section and despite the early hour (just 5 pm) needed no discussion to pitch our tent-fly and set about the serious business of relieving our packs of much of their precious cargo of food and water.

Light rain during the night didn't bother us and by morning it was apparent that we were in for a fine, clear day despite lingering cloud over the headwaters of the Tambo River, to the south-east. Soon we were striding carefree through open snow gum, around and over the many rocky knolls that litter the upper section of the long North-west Spur which runs from the summit plateau to the paddocks of Benambra. Our first stop was only a short distance beyond the summit at a wonderful, natural lookout where we had paused for photos during our traverse of Mt Tambo from the west two years before. Again we took in the spectacular vista—along Mt Tambo's craggy West Face, across 'our' spur up from Scrubby Creek, to Bindi; along the convoluted Bowen Mountains, with the Sisters prominent; to the plains of Benambra, with the Bogong High Plains serving as a white-splashed backdrop. And again we excitedly traced our route of two years before over the Sisters and along the Bowen Mountains to where we now stood. We babbled like idiots at our good fortune in having such an unspoiled and rarely visited wilderness all to ourselves.

The ridge became broader, less rocky and less defined as we descended. Unfortunately,



*The author on Mt Speculation in the Victorian Alps two months before his first Mt Tambo foray, described in his journal extracts quoted in this article. (Mts Koonika and Cobbler wink encouragingly over his shoulder.)*

through open woodland with parrots cavorting raucously in the treetops. After a while we came across signs of human intervention in the form of long-felled trees and traces of cattle. But it was taking longer than we had anticipated—it always does!—to intersect the track. Eventually, of course, we stumbled across it a short distance from where it leaves the paddocks of Benambra to enter the forest. It was a good place for lunch.

The track heads south-east, climbing gently for a few kilometres to reach the Great Divide at the saddle where we had camped two

so finish our walk that evening. However, when the track rejoined Scrubby Creek again, babbling across a pebble ford in a deserted clearing of springy grass and sighing gum trees with parrots chattering above, we instinctively knew that 'civilisation' would have to wait until tomorrow. We still had some dreaming to do. 🐦

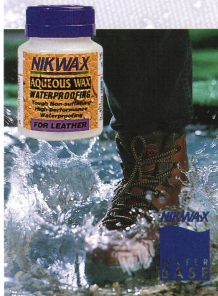
*Wild* founding Editor Chris Baxter rates his four Mt Tambo forays as some of his happiest memories, shared with four people who are among those most important to him.

The best maps to use for this walk are the *Omeo-Bindi* and *Benambra-Leinster* 1:50 000 Vicmap sheets.



## WHY I WATERPROOF MY WALKING BOOTS WITH A WATER-BASED WAX THE PROBLEM

If my boots get wet when I'm out on an overnight trip, there's no way I can re-proof them with a conventional solvent based wax proofing until the leather has dried out. Oil and water just don't mix!



## THE SOLUTION

With Aqueous Nikwax waterproofing, a water-based wax, I just apply the proofing to the wet areas and it's sucked into the leather, coating the fibres with a tough, flexible waterproofing that prevents any more water being absorbed.

Nikwax have developed a unique range of Water-based waterproofing for footwear.

Aqueous Nikwax, Fabric and Leather proofing, Nubuck & Suede proofing and Nikwax Liquid Conditioner for Leather.

All are ideal for footwear with breathable waterproof membranes and can be applied to Wet or Dry footwear.

For a Nikwax waterproofing guide, contact

**OUTDOOR SURVIVAL AUSTRALIA PTY LTD**

Tel: 03 9775 1916  
Fax: 03 9775 1917

Email: [info@outdoorsurvival.com.au](mailto:info@outdoorsurvival.com.au)  
Internet: [www.outdoorsurvival.com.au](http://www.outdoorsurvival.com.au)

**NIKWAX**  
LEAD BY INNOVATION



When TATONKA designed the "Baby Carrier" they did all the worrying, so you don't have to.



The "Baby Carrier" features adjustable seat positions and is comfortably padded in all the right places. A voluminous pocket stows all baby's necessities and the comfortably designed shoulder straps and wide hip belt provide for a great mood. Taking your baby is a pleasure.

For free colour catalogue, contact:  
Outdoor Survival Australia Pty Ltd  
Tel: 03 9775 1916 Fax: 03 9775 1917  
Email: [info@outdoorsurvival.com.au](mailto:info@outdoorsurvival.com.au)  
Internet: [www.outdoorsurvival.com.au](http://www.outdoorsurvival.com.au)



**pacsafe**

## What's your gear worth?



- Protects backpack/luggage in airport transit
- Locks backpack/luggage to secure fixture
- Deters theft, pilfering and tampering
- Prevents slashing from knives (100% slashproof)
- Comes with padlock

**Available from all good outdoors stores**



**pacsafe**

**Street-smart travel security**

For more information, contact  
Outdoor Survival Australia Pty Ltd  
Tel: 03 9775 1916 Fax: 03 9775 1917  
Email: [info@outdoorsurvival.com.au](mailto:info@outdoorsurvival.com.au)

[www.outdoorsurvival.com.au](http://www.outdoorsurvival.com.au)



# "come out and play?"



## "Absolutely"

Yesterday it was a water fight in the front yard.

Today it's your first attempt at "Satan's Washing Machine"

Whatever games you play, play them in Teva sandals. Make your feet feel like a kid again.

 **Teva**  
Come out and play



Universal Approach:

For more information please call (03) 9427 9422 (Australia) or (09) 373 9840 (New Zealand)

• [www.teva.com](http://www.teva.com) •

Teva 004a ©2000



# Mother Woila

Rob Jung describes a way to this elusive and sought-after New South Wales peak



*The Minima Range ridge in misty conditions. This is the alternative (mentioned in the text) to walking along the uninspiring bulldozed track. Both photos Rob Jung*

**THE WOILA IS A WILD AND RUGGED PART** of the Deua National Park, on the edge of the tablelands of south-eastern NSW. The area is about 100 kilometres south-east of Canberra. A beguiling feature is the forbidding and isolated hulk of Mother Woila, a mountain first climbed as recently as 1964.

These notes describe a three–four day circuit walk which follows the ridges around Mother Woila. From the most easterly parts are serene views across forested ridges, in contrast to the rawness of the Mother Woila side.

A small inholding of freehold land is on Woila Creek. The land was acquired fol-

lowing the 1860s Selection Acts and is still owned by descendants of the original selector.

Part of the network of fire tracks built in the Deua in the 1970s gives access to the area. These tracks are popular with groups of four-wheel-drive and trail-bike owners. In December 1997, a bad fire season, the National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) bulldozed a further four kilometres of track from Dampier to near Mother Woila. This track was soon closed in a rough fashion, but will it remain closed in a future fire season?

Apart from these incursions, there aren't any tracks. The main part of the walk area lies within declared wilderness inside the Deua National Park.

## When to go

The cooler months of the year, especially spring and autumn, are the preferred times to do this walk. It is cold in winter, with short days and the possibility of wind storms or ephemeral snowfalls. Avoid hot summer, or prolonged dry periods, when the soaks may dry out.

## Safety

The area between Mother Woila and Scout Hat contains high cliffs and sections of loose rock. To traverse the latter is potentially hazardous at any time, but especially in wet weather. The most dangerous areas are the rocky routes around Mother Woila, the ridge south of Horseshoe Point and the scree slope immediately south of Tabletop.

Cyclonic wind storms occasionally occur in this area. The piles of wind throws found on Euranbene Mountain, Dampier, Tabletop and near Horseshoe Point show the power of these storms. Geoff Mosley's party was caught out in one near Horseshoe Point, on the night after they first ascended Mother Woila in July 1964.

## Maps

The maps needed for the walk are the *Badja* and *Snowball* 1:25 000 NSW Central Mapping Authority

## Further reading

- Mosley, Geoff 1997, 'Discovering Mother Woila', *Wild* no 66, pp 42–47.
- Prineas, Peter and Gold, Henry 1997, *Wild Places*, Colong Foundation, Sydney.

## Permits

Walking permits or fees are not required. However, the walk is largely within a declared wilderness area with few signs of other walkers. Please help to keep it that way. If you wish to camp within the freehold land at Woila Clearing, get permission from the landholders. Contact the NPWS in Narooma for details; phone (02) 4476 2888.

## Access

Access to this area is from the Braidwood–Cooma road. From Braidwood it is 66 kilometres to the Currumbene Road turn-off. From Cooma it is 73 kilometres by way of Numeralla. If approaching from Braidwood, the NPWS camp-site Berlang, 41 kilometres

At 7.8 kilometres another track comes in on the right. This is the old closed track from Pikes Saddle. There are grassy flats and water here. This is where you leave the cars for the walk.

## The walk

The walking times given are for good conditions, refer to people carrying packs and do not include stops.

Water is easily found in the major watercourses such as Woila Creek or Breakfast Creek. Although soaks are more difficult to find, there are some near the ridgetops—these include:

- pools in the tree-fern gully which collect water flowing south-west from Horseshoe Point plateau (GR 401108);
- pools in the small gorge which collect water flowing south off Tabletop (GR 405087);
- in thick sedge grass 130 metres downstream from where the bulldozed track crosses a small watercourse (GR 408123).

## Dampier to Horseshoe Point plateau

(easy, three hours)

Walk east along the Currumbene Road to the summit of Dampier, then go to the south-east corner of the large clearing. An old survey sight-line and a large pile of earth are here. The pile is part of the attempt to camouflage the fire track bulldozed by the NPWS in 1997.

Use the fire track as it leads directly along the ridge from Dampier. Approach it by following the

## the walk AT A GLANCE

Grade	Moderate–hard
Length	Three–four days
Type	A classic ridgetop circuit walk, best suited to experienced walkers
Region	Escarpment ranges in south-eastern NSW
Best times	Spring, autumn
Special points	A rugged, remote area for small parties



*The North Face of Mother Woila. This tantalising summit was not reached by bushwalkers until as relatively recently as 1964! Even today few people reach the summit of Mother Woila. It is a difficult and hazardous objective.*

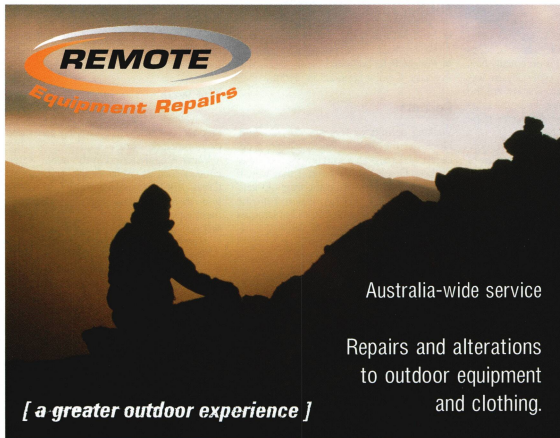
sheets. Roads are better shown on the *Batemans Bay* 1:125 000 forestry map. However, the new Currumbene Road, used to approach the walk, is not shown on any of these maps. It is marked on the NSW NPWS pamphlet, 'Deua National Park'. This new road joins the old four-wheel-drive one which went from Pikes Saddle to Dampier by way of Euranbene Mountain. From Pikes Saddle the old road is now impassable to vehicles.

south, is a useful Friday night camping point. The Currumbene Road is marked as four-wheel drive but in dry conditions it is negotiable in a two-wheel-drive vehicle until the ascent to Dampier (GR 385155). In wet weather, parts of the Currumbene Road become very slippery. Near the main road, the Currumbene Road crosses the shallow ford of Currumbene Creek. It has a stony bottom and is easily negotiated. At two kilometres the road forks—take the right branch.

old survey line south-east from the clearing, then merge left on to it after about 50 metres. Leave the less-than-inspiring track when you can and walk through forest and along the ridgetop, for example, near GR 410123 and 406116.

There are numbers of suitable places for small parties to camp in the Horseshoe Point plateau area. The main one is near water at GR 402112. An alternative is at Horseshoe Point.





[ a greater outdoor experience ]

Australia-wide service

Repairs and alterations  
to outdoor equipment  
and clothing.

## Packs Tents

- Reproofing
- Alloy tent poles

## Sleeping Bags

- Cleaning
- Down boosting

## Clothing/ Rainwear

- Gore-Tex
- Fleece
- Ski wear
- Reproofing
- Cleaning

## ...and more

- Self-inflating  
camp rests
- Zippers
- Buckles

Level 3, 373 Little Bourke St, Melbourne, Vic 3000 Ph: (03) 9670 2586 Fax: (03) 9670 7412 Email: remote@mira.net



## Professional qualifications for Outdoor Leaders

recognition of your current skills

NATIONALLY RECOGNISED  
TRAINING

We will recognise your current skills as credits towards your qualification (RPL) and assist you to gain any additional skills that you might need to become qualified. We train Outdoor Leaders to the latest National Standard. Get qualified in Abseiling, Rockclimbing, Canoeing, Kayaking, Bushwalking, Navigation, Mountain Biking & Ropes Courses. Plus electives in ATSSC, Remote Operations, 4WD & Camp Craft, Instructional skills and Adventure-based counselling.

You'll benefit from our flexible delivery and distance education strategies. Call Worthwild on (07) 3833 4330 or 0413 157 358 or email: info@worthwild.com.au



## Thermal by Nature

Unisex & women's thermal adventure clothing, manufactured from 100% Australian Merino Wool

### Garment Features

U.V. PROTECTION: UPF RATING 50+	NATURAL CLIMATE CONTROL
BREATHABLE	QUICK DRYING
FLAME RETARDANT	ODOUR RESISTANT
FULL EASY CARE	ANTI-PILLING



PRODUCT OF AUSTRALIA

### Enquiries:

Available at leading outdoors retailers  
Agents: Nomad (02) 9939 5611  
Head Office: iZwool International  
(08) 9380 6248

## What are you saving for?

### Invest ethically.

Your savings and superannuation can support only environmentally and socially responsible companies. Invest with Australia's specialist fund manager. You will also earn a competitive return.



## Australian Ethical Investment

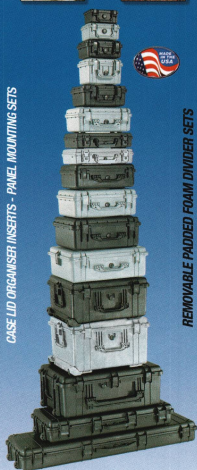
phone 1800 021 227 now for a prospectus  
or visit our website [www.austethical.com.au](http://www.austethical.com.au)

Applications for investment can only be made on the form contained in the current prospectus (dated 23/10/1999 and registered with ASIC) which is available from Australian Ethical.

# **PELICAN®**

www.pelicanaustralia.com

**THE WORLDS  
TOUGHEST  
WATERTIGHT  
PROTECTOR CASES**



CASE LID ORGANISER INSERTS - PANEL MOUNTING SETS

REMOVABLE PADDED FOAM DIVIDER SETS



## **Horseshoe Point plateau to Mother Woila**

(optional, hard, three-hour return without packs)

Few people reach the summit of Mother Woila. It is a difficult and hazardous objective. To explore the plateau and take in its cliff-top views is a worthwhile alternative.

For the Mother Woila climb, a 15 metre hand line is useful. The trip is not recommended in wet weather. Follow the broad ridge south-west past the large NPWS helipad at GR 399110. After nearly one kilometre a small knoll with an awesome view to Mother Woila is reached. The chain-sawed trees there are courtesy of NPWS clearing in 1997.

Continue south-west down the steep razor-back to Mother Woila saddle. Woila gums are the eucalypts growing on this spur. They are unique to the rocky Woila ridgetops, and were first discovered here by a bushwalker in 1971. From the saddle continue by traversing round the base of the north-west

or even a respectable drop to give the sense of having climbed something. Getting there and back was the achievement.

Today the cairn and logbook are near the cliff-edge north-west of the summit where there is a view and a drop.

## **Horseshoe Point plateau to Tabletop**

(moderate-hard, two-three hours)

Follow the forested ridgetop, weaving through undergrowth and large fallen trees, and descend to Horseshoe Point. A short distance north of the point, pass through the cliffline by descending east through boulders. Traverse the base of the cliff past a small overhang to regain the ridgeline. This overhang may offer refuge in severe conditions. Within the next few hundred metres is another small cliff head to be skirted.

The remainder of the route to Tabletop is undulating and rocky, but shouldn't present any problems. In clear weather there are good views of Mother Woila and Tabletop along the way. Tabletop contains a confused jumble of fallen trees; however, there are pleasant camp-sites near the north-west corner. You also have good views from the cliff-edges.

## **Tabletop to Woila Clearing**

(moderate-hard, four-five hours)

A short distance from the south-western end of Tabletop descend steeply to the east, dropping on to a loose, scree-filled ramp (GR 403085). Follow this ramp as it steeply descends south. Then make your way back on to the very narrow, rocky main ridge with its airy views.

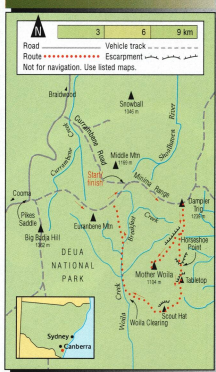
The rock gradually gives way to a timbered ridge and easier travelling. More care is required around Scout Hat as the saddle immediately east is again narrow and rocky. From the summit descend west-south-west and follow this ridge to Woila Creek. Plenty of camp-sites are around Woila Clearing.

## **Woila Clearing to the Currumbene Road**

(moderate, five-six hours)

A number of routes are possible back to the Currumbene Road. One is the steady climb over Euranbene Mountain, which starts from Woila Creek at GR 365093. The old bridle track to the inholding at Woila Clearing went this way. For an alternative exit (shown on our map), walk further up Woila Creek to the junction of Woila and Breakfast Creeks. The spur climbs directly on to the plateau, which is crossed in a generally northern direction to reach the old fire track from Pikes Saddle. Follow this east to the start of the walk.

## **Mother Woila area**



side of Mother Woila. Stay close to the base of the cliffs without climbing them. The traverse is downward and then across a loose slope to a distinct gully about ten metres wide. Scramble up this gully, which was Mosley's original route. Near the top of the gully where it narrows is the main obstacle to the climb, a four-five metre rock step. Once you are above the gully (GR 388103), it is a straightforward climb to the summit.

Peter Prineas (1997) expressed similar feelings to my own when he wrote of his ascent in 1976:

The summit was an anticlimax, just a rough cairn closed in by straggly forest, without views

Rob Jung began bushwalking in 1971 during his university days in Melbourne. He has lived in Sydney since 1979 and is a water chemist. His first trip to the Woila was in 1982, when he climbed Mother Woila twice on one trip. He takes photographs in the bush and has contributed to books, magazines and diaries.

- **WATERTIGHT / DUSTTIGHT**
- **LIGHTWEIGHT SPACE-AGE**
- **CRUSHPROOF / UNBREAKABLE**
- **17 SIZES AVAILABLE**
- **UNCONDITIONAL LIFETIME - GUARANTEE OF EXCELLENCE**

**OUTDOOR SURVIVAL AUSTRALIA PTY. LTD.**  
12 Leah Grove, Carrum Downs,  
Victoria 3201, Australia  
Phone 03 9775 1916 Fax 03 9775 1917  
www.outdoorsurvival.com.au

# ECLIPSE

## DESIGNED TO OUTSHINE ITS COMPETITORS.

### INCREASED COMFORT

Full Leather Padded Ankle.

### COMFORT & PROTECTION

Belows style, full leather padded tongue.



### FAMOUS VIBRAM SOLE

Internationally renowned for their strength, grip and shock absorbing qualities.

### COMFORT & DURABILITY

Leather & Cambrelle inner linings.

### SPECIAL HEEL AREA DESIGN

Increased Heel grip and comfort.

### TORSIONAL RIGIDITY & STRENGTH

Embedded steel shank & specially designed insole.

### SUPPORT & COMFORT

Contoured, high quality, Cambrelle/ELON footbed.

### LONG LASTING

### "D" RINGS & HOOKS

Made from brass and completely rust proof.

### PRACTICAL, COMFORTABLE, EASY MAINTENANCE

Full leather uppers.

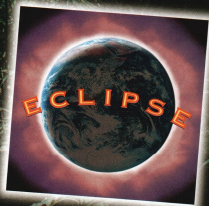


# Rossi Boots

BY ROSSITERS

WORK HARD • PLAY HARD

Rossiters Pty. Ltd. 80 Burbridge Rd., Hilton South Australia 5033





Whether it's bushwalking, mountaineering, cross-country skiing, trekking or travel, a pack is your best friend or your worst enemy. Why? Because you depend on the agility and comfort that your pack provides.

## Engineered to Carry

# MONT

- Innovative design, detailed construction and quality materials.
- Anatomically contoured hip-belts.
- Interchangeable shoulder-yokes and hip-belts.
- Spandura II fabric for the body-contact areas.
- Bar tacks on the important high-stress points.
- Triple-stitched with webbing-bound seams to ensure massive seam strength.
- We use Evazote™ foams, the most durable, high-quality foams available.
- Hip-belt secures directly to the aluminium frame-stays for direct load transfer.
- Only highest quality Duraflex buckles.
- The shoulder-yoke adjusts independently of the aluminium frame-stays.
- Dual aluminium frame-stays adjusted and reinserted in seconds.

SOMETHING BETTER.

The Mont Moto Active™ adjustable harness system is deceptively simple, fast to adjust and easy to fit. Available in three sizes and featuring interchangeable harness components, a truly "best fit" is possible, and "best fit" means a truly comfortable carry.

ADVENTURE  
MONT  
EQUIPMENT

WWW.MONT.COM.AU

mont free call 1800 800 497

ZIRO travel pack.

Australian Made Australian Owned

PURADOWN

AFFORDABLE  
DOWN



Australian Made Australian Owned

Australian Made Australian Owned

Unconditional Zipper Guarantee  
Soft Touch Nylon Taffeta  
90/10 Duck Down  
Protected by Scotchgard™

Body Tapered	Box Wall
YKK Zips	Roomy Fit
Security Pocket	Zip Lock

#### Models:

Travel Light:	360g Down
Mt Moreton:	550g Down
Alpine:	800g Down

For your local supplier contact us:  
Puradown Australia Pty. Ltd.  
Ph: (03)9460 8488 Fax: (03)9462 1444  
Email: puradown@ibm.net

Australian Made Australian Owned

## Himalayan Treks

Conducted Tours and  
Independent Travel

Best Prices Reliable Sherpa Crew

**\*2 November Conducted Everest-region Trek**

- 18 days, tea-house accommodation and meals
  - Fully guided, portered trek
  - Flying Thai Airlines with a 4-star stop over in Bangkok and Kathmandu
- ONLY \$2950**

**\*17 February Annapurna Adventure**

- 8-day trek, 2-day white-water rafting, 2-day jungle safari
- Similar inclusions as above
- 18 days for **ONLY \$3150**

Call Macleay Valley Travel

**1800 810 809**

email: [alan@midcoast.com.au](mailto:alan@midcoast.com.au)

**"I just got THE best  
travel towel...couldn't  
recommend it enough"**

## MENDA Ultimate Travel and Sports Towel

- Rated 5/5 by the Melbourne Age
- Made using new technology
- Comes with compression-strap and draw-string mesh bag
- Superior in performance to a chamois, and superior in comfort to a towel

Check it out at [www.menda.com.au](http://www.menda.com.au)  
or phone (02) 9624 6700



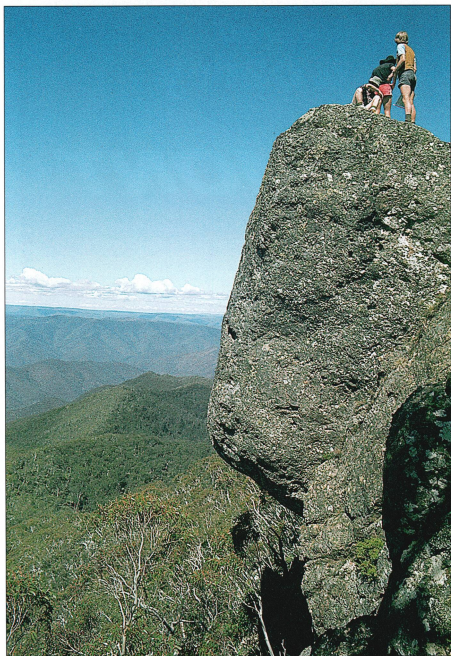
**www.  
wildequipment.  
com.au**

— for what they  
didn't tell you.

## TRACK NOTES

# Mt Darling

*John Chapman takes the less travelled route into the historical Wonnangatta valley in the Victorian Alps*



*The rocky outcrop next to the summit of Mt Darling provides a grandstand view over the Wonnangatta valley. John Chapman*

**THIS PEAK IS ACTUALLY JUST THE END OF A** high ridge in the Alps. While not as spectacular as some other mountains it provides good views and very pleasant walking. The route passes through snow plains and by snow gums, has viewing points into Bryces Gorge and also visits the historical Wonnangatta valley. This circuit can be done in two hard,

long days or, ideally, as the medium, three-day walk described here.

### When to go

Late spring, summer and autumn all provide ideal conditions for this circuit. Winter is not suitable as snow often lies on the plains

and the access road is usually blocked by snow near Tamboritha Saddle.

## Safety

Some sections of this walk are along poorly defined pads and tracks. You must be able to read maps, use a compass and follow pads. There isn't any thick scrub and most of the forest is open.

## Maps

The *Tamboritha-Moroka* and *Howitt-Selwyn* 1:50 000 Vicmaps cover the entire walk and are essential. Also useful for the Bryces Gorge and Carey Road sections is the *Snowy Plains, Mt Kent and Lake Tali Karng* 1:50 000 Bush Maps sheet.

## Access

From Melbourne follow the major roads east for 206 kilometres to the town of Heyfield. From there follow the sealed road north for 54 kilometres towards the tiny settlement

## the walk AT A GLANCE

<b>Grade</b>	Medium/hard
<b>Length</b>	Three days
<b>Type</b>	Mountain scenery
<b>Region</b>	Victorian Alps
<b>Best times</b>	Late spring, summer and autumn
<b>Special points</b>	Waterfalls, the historical Wonnangatta valley. Start early on days two and three

of Licola. Turn right just before entering the town, and follow the Tamboritha Road north-east. This goes along the Wellington River valley for 25 kilometres to the end of the sealed road. Continue on the main gravel road for a further 25 kilometres, climbing to Arbuckle Junction. Turn left and follow the Howitt Road for 19 kilometres to the car park for Guys Hut on the right.

## The walk

The first day with the pack is an easy half-day's walk to Mt Darling Creek. It is suggested that you visit Bryces Gorge for the morning to fill the day. Without your packs, leave the car park on the track heading north-west. At the edge of the snow plain turn right and go along a walking track heading north-east into the valley of Pieman Creek.

The track follows the creek east to the top of Pieman Falls, which tumble into the very impressive Bryces Gorge. Follow the rim of the gorge northwards. There are several viewing points along the way. Care is required to keep to the main track because there are several pads around some viewing points as a result of walkers seeking the best

views. Do not be fooled into descending into the gorge.

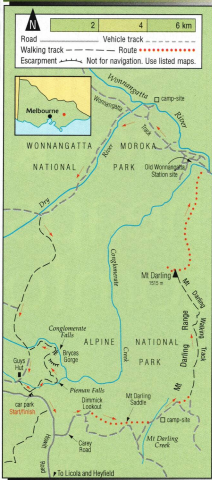
The gorge rim is followed north for two kilometres to the top of Conglomerate Falls. From here follow the track beside Conglomerate Creek west, then south-west, to a track junction. Veer left and walk south for one-and-a-half kilometres to Guys Hut. This is a small log hut built by cattlemen in 1940 which provides shelter on wet days. Follow the old road south-east for one kilometre back to the car park and the end of the side-trip.

For the afternoon, carry your packs south on the Howitt Road for one-and-a-half kilometres to the Carey Road. Turn left and walk east on the Carey Road. It soon swings north-east to a road junction near Dimmick Lookout. Turn left on to the side-road to the lookout. Here is a different view of Bryces Gorge.

From the lookout, leave the road and follow a foot-pad heading south-east along the rocky ridgetop. It soon descends and heads east to meet the Carey Road again. This saves a long road-bash.

Follow the road north-east to Mt Darling Saddle. There is a choice of routes here. Either follow the road south-east, then north-east, or leave the road and head east directly over the knoll to rejoin the road on the eastern side. Follow the road north-east, crossing Mt Darling Creek, and soon you will enter an open snow plain which makes a suitable camping area. Collect water from the creek.

## Mt Darling area



## Day two

Carry enough water for the day because there isn't any water on the ridge to Mt Darling. Continue eastward along the road and after a short time turn left on to an old, closed road which heads north along the Mt Darling Range. Follow the road north along the range. Leave the road where it veers off the ridge crest, and follow a foot-pad along the tops. This passes through a broad, open saddle which was probably cleared for a helicopter pad, and then follows a rocky, sharp ridge to the summit of Mt Darling. There are good views from the large rocks just past the summit.

Head down a gully 30 metres south-east of the summit to descend. Walk north-east along a well-defined ridge for 800 metres to where the ridge divides. Follow the well-defined, northern ridge for one-and-a-half kilometres to a distinct knoll. Several ridges meet here; continue north 300 metres, then veer right and follow the ridge heading just east of north. Follow a pad descending the ridge to the flats of the Wonnangatta valley near Conglomerate Creek.

There are suitable camp-sites all along the valley. To make the next day shorter it is suggested that you follow the river flats north-west for three kilometres and camp near the junction of the Dry and Wonnangatta Rivers. If you have time it is worth deviating to the cemetery and the old Wonnangatta Station site. These are just north of Conglomerate Creek.

## Day three

The Wonnangatta valley is popular with vehicles and there are various tracks in the valley. Ignoring those that head north, follow the main vehicle track heading west into the valley of the Dry River. This river normally flows underground so water should be carried for the morning.

At the first crossing of the Dry River (no water) keep to the left and follow the old vehicle track south-west along the northern side of the valley. After three kilometres the track crosses the riverbed again (no water), then follows the southern bank for nearly two kilometres to another track junction. Water is available from the river on the track to the right if required.

Turn left and climb steeply south following a foot track. The track is well defined and at four kilometres from the valley you will emerge on to an alpine plateau. From here the track is not so well defined as it heads south, then south-west, for three kilometres to cross Conglomerate Creek at a clearing. This is an old hut site and the creek has a reliable supply of water.

Continue past the creek for 300 metres to a track junction to meet the track from Bryces Gorge which you followed on the first day. Veer right and follow the old vehicle track south for one-and-a-half kilometres to Guys Hut. Continue on the track south for a further kilometre to the car park and the end of the walk. 📍

See John Chapman's bio on page 36.



# Outland

## Reach Out!

For accredited qualifications in outdoor recreation.

- Leading commercial provider of nationally accredited training in NSW.
- Adventure Specialists for over 10 years

**Outdoor Leadership Training in**

- Abseiling
- Climbing
- Canyoning
- Remote Area Rescue
- Paddle Sports



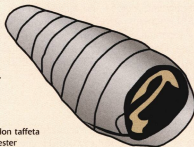
Tel: 02 4751 8711  
**FREECALL 1800 ABSEIL**  
 Web: [www.outland.com.au](http://www.outland.com.au)  
 Email: [base@outland.com.au](mailto:base@outland.com.au)



## Ruggedness, Value and Canny Design Rucksacks, Tents, Sleeping-bags

### ULTRALITE

The Ultralite is *the* compact, light, synthetic sleeping-bag on the market. It uses Du Pont's Thermolite Micro fibres, and is targeted at the bushwalker, mountain marathon competitor, cyclist or traveller who requires a product that is lightweight and compact.



#### Fabric:

Outer 40D 240T Ripstop nylon taffeta  
 Inner Soft-hand Micro polyester

Ultralite model	700	900	1100	1300
Total weight (kg):	0.90	1.10	1.40	1.55
Fill weight (gm/m <sup>2</sup> ):	1 x 100	2 x 100 top 1 x 100 bottom	2 x 150 top 1 x 100 bottom	2 x 175 top 1 x 150 bottom
Temp rating (°C):	0	-5	-10	-12
Comfort rating:	+25 to +5	+25 to 0	+15 to -5	+25 to -8
Length (cm):	225	225	225	225
Chest width (cm):	80	80	80	80
Foot width (cm):	50	50	50	50
Pack size (cm) L x diam:	22 x 14	27 x 16	28 x 16	29 x 18

Ansco Pty Ltd, 11b Northland Home Centre, Gower Street, Preston, Vic 3072  
 Phone: 1800 333 645 Fax: (03) 9471 1600 Email: [ansco@ansco.com.au](mailto:ansco@ansco.com.au)



Endorsed by the  
 Chiropractors  
 Association of  
 Australia



**ONE PLANET**

# Solid as a rock, and heaps more comfortable.

**Strezlecki** The Strezlecki rucksack is one comfortable tough customer. Like all One Planet packs it features the 'Exact Fit Harness®' endorsed by the Chiropractors' Association of Australia. This harness can be fully adjusted whilst on the user's back, giving maximum comfort and correct spinal alignment.

For our Buyers Guide featuring the complete range of One Planet products contact Adventure One in Australia on Tel: (03) 9372 2555. Fax: (03) 9372 2473 email: [sales@adventureone.com.au](mailto:sales@adventureone.com.au) and Adventure One (NZ) in New Zealand on Tel: (03) 381 3400 Fax: (03) 381 3499 email: [sales@adventureone.co.nz](mailto:sales@adventureone.co.nz)

# Quick, delicious and nutritious



Exclusively distributed in Australia by Spelean Pty Ltd Ph: (02) 9966 9800 Fax: (02) 9966 9811 e-mail: [harvest@spelean.com.au](mailto:harvest@spelean.com.au) [www.spelean.com.au](http://www.spelean.com.au)

## Collectable?

You can collect your Petzl 2000 catalogue from  
all good outdoors stores now,  
or ring 02 9966 9800 and we'll send you one.  
email: [petcat2000@spelean.com.au](mailto:petcat2000@spelean.com.au)



Exclusively distributed in Australia by Spelean Pty Ltd Ph: (02) 9966 9800 Fax: (02) 9966 9811 e-mail: [petzl@spelean.com.au](mailto:petzl@spelean.com.au) [www.spelean.com.au](http://www.spelean.com.au)

3

# They've experienced the difference

"Through 20,000km of cycling, climbing Europe's highest peaks and manhauling in the Arctic winter, Zamberlan boots have always been as steady and reliable as the ground under my feet"

Chris Hatherly - Australian Young Adventurer of the Year

"Support, comfort and toughness is a must for my boots as I use my feet to braille the trails. Zamberlan boots are the best of the best"

Ched Towns - Blind mountain trekker and climber

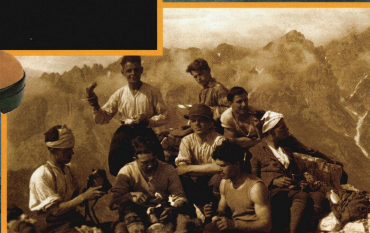
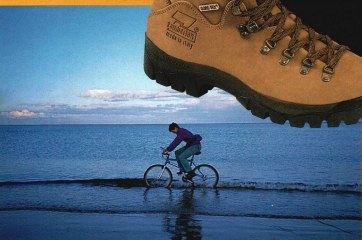
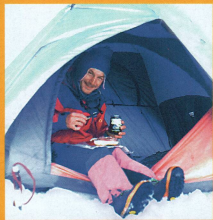
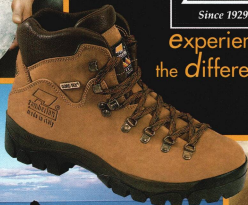
"The London to Beijing Cycling and Mountaineering expedition takes me from Europe to Asia, by bicycle and on foot. My equipment must last to the very end. Zamberlan boots were my only option"

Tim Cope - Expedition Member

*Zamberlan boots are available  
worldwide.*



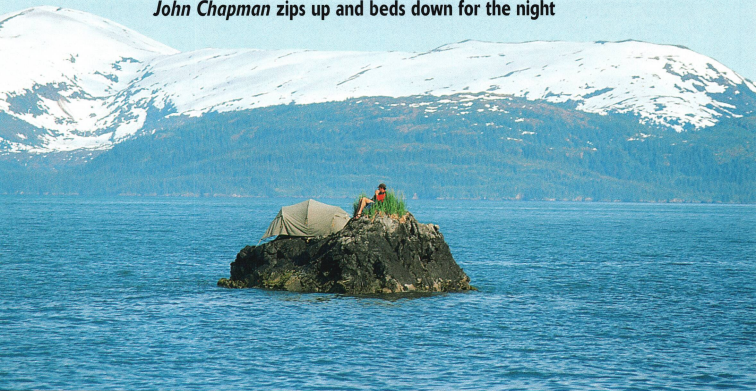
experience  
the difference®





# Tents for bushwalking

*John Chapman zips up and beds down for the night*



*No, this survey doesn't feature any tents-cum-lighthouses! Julian Atherstone gets cosy on an island in Blackstone Bay, Alaska. Fiona Groves*

**EVERY WALKER HAS DIFFERENT REQUIREMENTS** for a tent and manufacturers have responded by providing a wide variety. Tents for bushwalkers range from tiny shelters to heavy, bombproof domes. The models surveyed are from the middle of this range and are suitable for two or more people walking in areas where rain can be expected. This extends from the wet season in the north to three-season use in the southern alpine areas.

Each supplier was asked to nominate three tents for general-purpose bushwalking. The object of this survey is to help you to find a tent suitable for your intended use.

## Intended capacity

This is the manufacturer's stated size; often width is considered with little regard for overall length of the occupants.

## Design

Designs have been classified according to the pole layout. Tents using crossing poles are called domes. The use of parallel or near-parallel poles classifies a tent as a tunnel. The pyramid consists of one vertical pole with a draping pyramid fly. Many of the domes are of a lightweight, hybrid design so don't expect the space or rigidity of a heavier snow dome.

## Maximum internal dimensions

The largest measured sizes of the inner in order of length by width by height. Generally, sizes are useful to compare space except for some irregular designs.

### Interior size

Lie down and make sure that the inner is long enough. Sit up and test whether there is enough space above your head.

### Entrances

Entrances vary widely and you should test how difficult it is to get in and out. Consider what it will be like in poor weather when you are trying to remove your waterproof jacket as you crawl in.

### Separate pitching

In warm climates you will often only need an insect screen. Check whether it's possible to erect the inner without the fly.

### Ease of pitch

If possible, observe a tent being put up and take it down at least once before buying.

## Total weight

The weights of the tents in this survey have been supplied by the manufacturers; they include everything required for walking. Some manufacturers now quote either Spartan or

## Buy right

Can the poles be inserted from either end? Are they the same size? Is there a preferred order for them to be erected? Are the pole ends difficult to attach, and is there any adjustment so that the tent can always remain taut as it stretches and ages?










### Door design

Many tents use the door for ventilation. Check whether you can leave the door open while it rains—some designs let the rain fall directly on to the inner when the door is open.




### Ventilation

Ideally, there should be two openings as high as possible. Check that they are adequately supported and stay open. Many flaps collapse when wet, thus becoming ineffective.

# Tents for bushwalking

		Intended capacity, people	Design	Maximum internal dimensions: length x width x height	Total weight, kilograms	Poles	Pegs: minimum/ maximum	Vestibules	Fly entrances	Roominess	Ease of pitch	Stability	Access	Value	Approx. price, \$
Adventure Designs China															
	Humpback No Compromise	2	Dome	230 x 120 x 110	3.5	2 1/2	6/12	2	2	●● 1/2	●●●	●● 1/2	●●●	●●●	560
	◀ Diamondback II No Compromise	2	Dome	215 x 145 x 120	3.7	3	6/12	2	2	●●●●	●● 1/2	●●	●●●●	●●● 1/2	590
Bibler USA															
	Ahwahnee * f	2	Dome	230 x 130 x 120	2.4	2	4/8	0	1	●●	●●●	●●●	●●●●	●	1550
	◀ Torre * f	2	Dome	230 x 150 x 120	3.0	4	3/13	2	2	●●● 1/2	●● 1/2	●●●●	●●● 1/2	●	1790
Black Diamond China															
	◀ Megamid f	2-4	Pyramid	270 x 270 x 170	1.6	1	4/8	0	1	●●●●	●●● 1/2	●●	●●●●	●●	300
Eureka Korea															
	Bike & Hike	2	Dome	260 x 150 x 90	2.3	1	4/8	0	2	●●	●● 1/2	● 1/2	●●	●●●●	250
	Bushwalker ± f	2	Tunnel	220 x 120 x 90	2.5	2	5/10	1	1	●	●●●	● 1/2	●	●●●●	250
	◀ Autumn Wind	2	Dome	245 x 145 x 110	2.7	3	2/10	1	1	●●●	●●●	●● 1/2	● 1/2	●●●●	380
Fairydown China															
	Escape f f	2	Tunnel	230 x 126 x 110	2.8	2	4/10	2	2	na	na	●●●	na	na	390
	◀ Assault f f	2	Dome	220 x 120 x 110	3.2	2 1/2	2/18	2	2	na	na	na	na	●●●	530
	Trilogy f	3	Dome	200 x 162 x 105	3.7	3	2/18	3	3	●●●●	●●●	●●●	●●●	●● 1/2	600
Kathmandu Korea															
	◀ Voyager f	2	Dome	208 x 127 x 102	2.6	3	2/14	1	1	●●	●●●	●●● 1/2	●● 1/2	●●●	500
	Northstar	2	Dome	228 x 127 x 110	2.8	3	3/13	1	1	●● 1/2	●●●	●●● 1/2	●●●	●● 1/2	640
	Mountain	2	Dome	220 x 140 x 105	3.6	4	4/22	2	2	●●● 1/2	●● 1/2	●●●●	●●●	●●	760
Macpac New Zealand															
	◀ Nautilus	2	Tunnel	220 x 140 x 100	2.6	2	4/10	2	2	●●●	●●●	●● 1/2	●● 1/2	●●●	490
	Apollo	2-3	Dome	220 x 140 x 115	3.2	2	2/10	2	2	●●●	●●●	●●●	●● 1/2	●● 1/2	540
	Celeste	2-3	Dome	215 x 120 x 105	3.2	2	4/12	2	2	●● 1/2	●●● 1/2	●●●	●●●	●●	740
Mont Fiji															
	◀ Dragonfly f	2	Dome	235 x 130 x 108	3.3	2	4/12	2	2	●●●	●●●	●● 1/2	●●●	●●●	650
	Wasp	2	Tunnel	230 x 135 x 106	3.5	2	4/12	2	2	●● 1/2	●●●	●● 1/2	● 1/2	●● 1/2	690
Mountain Designs China															
	◀ Hutt f	2	Dome	230 x 120 x 110	2.4	2	6/13	2	1	●●	●●●	●●	●●●	●●●	380
Mountain Hardware China															
	Thru Hiker ± f	2	Dome	225 x 125 x 105	2.7	4	5/10	1	1	● 1/2	●●	●●● 1/2	●●●	●●●	490
	◀ South Col ±	2	Tunnel	240 x 145 x 95	3.0	3	5/18	1	1	●● 1/2	●●●	●● 1/2	● 1/2	●●	540
	Room for 3 ± f	3	Dome	280 x 200 x 120	3.7	3 1/2	5/10	1	1	●●●●	●●	●●●	●●●	●● 1/2	590
Salewa China															
	◀ Micro f	1-2	Dome	210 x 120 x 105	2.0	2	2/8	1	1	● 1/2	●●●	●●● 1/2	●● 1/2	●●●	370
	Bergen f	2	Dome	220 x 140 x 110	2.7	2 1/2	4/12	2	2	●● 1/2	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●●●	400
	Sierra Leone	2	Dome	230 x 155 x 110	3.3	2 1/2	4/12	2	2	●●●●	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●●●	550
Sierra Designs China															
	◀ Clip Flashlight CD	2	Tunnel	226 x 147 x 109	1.9	2	8/16	1	1	● 1/2	●●●	●●	●●	●●● 1/2	335
	Orion CD ±	2	Dome	229 x 146 x 107	2.5	3	4/13	1	1	●●●	●●	●●● 1/2	●●●	●●● 1/2	390
	Meteor Light CD ±	2	Dome	249 x 152 x 109	3.8	2 1/2	6/14	1	2	●●●●	●● 1/2	●●●	●●●	●● 1/2	480

## Tents for bushwalking continued

		Intended capacity, people	Design	Maximum internal dimensions: length x width x height	Total weight, kilograms	Number of				Roominess	Ease of pitch	Stability	Access	Value	Approx price, \$
						Poles	Pegs: minimum/maximum	Vestibules	Fly entrances						
Snowgum Vietnam															
	Ultralight fl	2	Dome	270 x 158 x 110	2.2	1	6/8	0	2	●●●	●●●	●	●1/2	●●●	250
	Frontier fl	2	Tunnel	215 x 158 x 95	2.5	2	8/12	2	2	●●●	●●●	●●	●●●1/2	●●●1/2	300
	Storm Shelter	2	Dome	215 x 145 x 118	3.2	2 1/2	2/10	2	2	●●●1/2	●●●	●●●	●●●●	●●●●	350
Terra Nova China															
	Mesa	2	Dome	220 x 130 x 110	2.8	2 1/2	2/8	2	2	●●1/2	●●●	●●	●●●	●●●1/2	450
	Sirocco	2-3	Dome	225 x 150 x 116	3.7	3	6/8	1	1	●●●●	●●●	●●●	●●●1/2	●●1/2	720
	Tornado ¥	2	Dome	220 x 118 x 110	3.7	2	6/8	2	2	●●1/2	●●●	●●●●	●●●	●●	740
Vango China															
	Micro TBS 250	2-3	Dome	230 x 120 x 115	3.0	1	4/14	2	2	●1/2	●●●	●1/2	●●	●●	380
	Equinox TBS 200	2	Tunnel	230 x 150 x 110	3.5	3	9/15	1	1	●●●●	●●●1/2	●●1/2	●●●1/2	●●●	450
	Hydra 200+	2	Dome	225 x 145 x 110	3.8	4	16/24	1	1	●●●●	●●	●●●●	●●●●	●●●	550
Wilderness Equipment Australia															
	Shadow	2	Tunnel	210 x 120 x 110	3.2	1	4/8	2	2	●●	●●1/2	●●	●●	●1/2	680
	Second Arrow fl	2	Tunnel	230 x 150 x 102	2.7	2	3/5	1	2	●●	●●●	●●1/2	●●●	●1/2	730
	First Arrow	2-3	Tunnel	220 x 160 x 120	3.6	3	3/7	2	3	●●●	●●●	●●1/2	●●●●	●1/2	950

● poor   ●● average   ●●● good   ●●●● excellent

Value: author's subjective opinion

\* Made from ToddTex, a waterproof, windproof and breathable fabric

§ Optional fly

† Has side-entrance

‡ Has clear window

¥ Optional extra pole

† not seen by reviewer

† not seen by referee

The country listed after the manufacturer/brand name is the country in which the products are made

● poor ●● average ●●● good ●●●● excellent

± Has side-entrance ‡ Has clear window

¥ Optional extra pole † Not seen by author

‡ Not seen by referee

Value: author's subjective opinion

\* Made from ToddTex, a waterproof, windproof and breathable fabric

§ Optional fly

The country listed after the manufacturer/brand name is the country in which the products are made

'in-use' weight, which seems to leave out extras such as pegs and carry bags. Ignore these lighter weights as you will need to carry the extras most of the time.

### Number of poles

The designation of a 'half-pole' in the table means that the tent has a shorter pole which does not extend to the ground. This is usually used to support the vestibule. All tents surveyed, except Black Diamond's Megamid, have aluminium shock-corded poles. Poles are made in various diameters and you should check carefully when purchasing a spare or replacement pole.

### Number of pegs

The 'minimum' of pegs are those required to put up the tent and fly. The 'maximum' is the sum of all peg and storm gey points.

### Number of vestibules

The number of unfloored vestibule areas that can be used for gear storage. One model has a small, unfloored area that was not counted as it hadn't any doors to it and would not be very useful in practice. Its primary purpose is ventilation, not gear storage.

### Number of fly entrances

The number of external doors into the tent-fly.

### Roominess

This takes into account the manufacturer's intended capacity and rates this against

other criteria: the inner area, gear storage, head clearance and overall space. My build (I am 1.8 metres tall) and experiences in a wide variety of tents affected this rating.

### Ease of pitch

This is affected by: continuous pole sleeves, width of pole sleeves (some are very narrow!), whether the poles cross (it does make it harder to erect) and how differing pole and material lengths are handled.

### Stability

This rates the overall stiffness of a tent against side forces. As we could not test the tents in a wind tunnel this rating is subjective and affected by the way I have seen designs perform. Little features such as attachments between the fly and inner, internal stiffeners and how well cut the panels are can make a big difference.

### Access

This rates how easy I found it to enter the tent and sit down. Tents with high openings rate well; those with low or long entrances less so.

### Value

This is not simply a value-for-money rating. In rating models as general bushwalking tents I have considered various factors: the heaviness of the tent, its overall features and quality and its size, as well as the price. A low value rating does not mean that a tent is poor; it simply means that using my

criteria I would not select it for my walking use; that is to say for extended sheltered walks such as the Bibbulmun Track in Western Australia or the Great South West Walk in Victoria.

### Approx price

This is the recommended price including GST. The new GST should have a minimal effect on tent prices, which previously included sales tax. In future, prices could change as suppliers discover possible cost changes—at present the price reduction due to GST has been estimated to be less than \$20 for most tents.

Price gives some indication regarding quality and the amount of effort that went into the design. Tents manufactured in Australia and New Zealand are generally higher in price but are almost always of excellent quality. Tents manufactured in Asia can also be of high quality but they vary more—examine the little things such as stitching, placement of features and materials used as well as the company's reputation concerning tents.

### Availability

You will not find all the tents surveyed available in any one shop or even in every State. Tents require lots of floor space and are expensive to stock—most shops have only two or three brands and only some models on display. To see a wide variety it is necessary to visit many shops. ☹

See John Chapman's bio on page 36.

This survey was refereed by Stephen Curran.



Try telling

**SHUKAS**

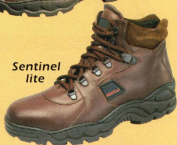
him performance isn't important!



Krakatoa  
lite



Sentinel  
lite



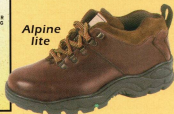
Mahai  
lite



Berg  
lite



Alpine  
lite



More grip ■ More comfort ■ More style ■ Lightweight

Awesome construction 1997

THE **4x4** OF FOOTWEAR



Incredible Fraser configuration

Unstinting quality and craftsmanship through state-of-the-art technology and continuous development. Exclusively stylish, designed for maximum comfort and performance.

**SHUKAS**

Copied but never bettered

TRADE ENQUIRIES: ACTION AFRICA AUSTRALIA  
P.O. Box 211, Albany Creek, Qld, 4035  
TEL. 07332 53386 FAX: 07332 53387  
[www.rocky.co.za](http://www.rocky.co.za)

INTERNATIONAL AGENTS  
U.S.A. Tel Free 888 762 8208 Action Africa (Incorp).  
JAPAN (81) 3 3461 4041 Griffin International.  
SOUTH AFRICA 27 31 700 4630 Action Africa Pty Ltd.  
ENGLAND 01954 261 942 Trade Winds



Buggy

Raider

Hiker

# Complete confidence!



Over a decade ago we developed the waterproof/breathable fabric Reflex® to meet the specific needs of trampers who enjoy our wilderness come rain, wind or snow.

In line with our consistent reputation for innovation we have continued to invest time, energy and a financial commitment into the advancement of Reflex®, making it the wet weather fabric of choice by New Zealand outdoors enthusiasts.

We have complete confidence in Reflex® to provide you with absolute protection in 'wild' weather.

## The Matai

3-layer Reflex® Taslan

Wired hood

Double storm flaps

Long length cut with waist cord

Hand warmer pockets



You'll make it to the campsite dry - every time.



Reflex® is only available through your Macpac retailer. Macpac Wilderness Equipment, phone +64 3 338 1106, fax +64 3 339 1198, email [macpac@macpac.co.nz](mailto:macpac@macpac.co.nz), [www.macpac.co.nz](http://www.macpac.co.nz).

# Settle for the best



**Nikon Travelite V binoculars.** Lightweight and compact, with aspherical lenses for minimal distortion and edge-to-edge sharpness. Great for those who wear glasses - a click-type dioptre adjuster lets you "set and forget". Models available in 8, 9, 10 and 12x magnification.

## Get the Nikon Advantage!

Whether you're a bushwalker, trekker or birdwatcher, you'll get the best view through Nikon binoculars. Nikon's own special high grade optical glass, combined with superior design, produces brighter, sharper, more colourful images. We call it the Nikon Advantage. So, settle for the best. Settle for Nikon binoculars.



**Nikon Sprint III binoculars.** Lightweight, affordable and ultra-compact, with multi-coated lenses. Available in 7, 8, 9 & 10x magnification. Minimum viewing distance of 3 metres.



**Nikon Waterproof binoculars.** Waterproof and dustproof. Rubber armoured for shock resistance and added grip. Models available in 8x and 10x magnifications. Sealed with Nitrogen to prevent fogging.

**Nikon**

For more product information, visit: [www.maxwell.com.au](http://www.maxwell.com.au)

For a Nikon binoculars brochure, call:

**Sydney** • Phone (02) 9390 0210

**Melbourne** • Phone (03) 9537 0999

**Brisbane** • Phone (07) 3245 1544

Request a brochure by e-mail: [brochure@maxwell.com.au](mailto:brochure@maxwell.com.au)

stop  
blisters  
before they  
stop  
you.

Like an extra layer of skin, Band-Aid® Brand Blister Block is the new way to protect against painful blisters.

Hi-Tec adhesion, tapered edges that don't catch on socks and totally waterproof means they stay in place for miles and miles.

In fact, if you're looking forward to a long hike (or if your boots are new) Blister Block will prevent the rubbing that can lead to painful blisters.

So stop blisters. Before they stop you.

Available in leading Supermarkets and Pharmacies.



Trial it free. Phone from Aust. 1800 029 979. From NZ 0800 446 147

McCorm BANDO007/A4/98



# GPS receivers

*John Poppins puts seven models to the test*

**SINCE THE LAST WILD SURVEY (ISSUE 67)** there have been continuing improvements to Global Positioning System (GPS) units for bushwalking. Once again they have become smaller, lighter, more accurate, faster in establishing position, and better able to continue operating under heavy forest.

The altitude calculated by a GPS is less accurate than the position. A sensitive electronic barometric altimeter in two new models improves the accuracy of altitude calculated and warns of weather changes.

Program upgrades for most of the current units can be obtained from the maker's Web site, improving in value with age.

Eagle/Lowrance is awaiting release of new models for bushwalking; visit [www.lowrance.com](http://www.lowrance.com)

## So, what is the use of a GPS?

- To assist with navigation to a desired location.
- To confirm a current position on the map.

When you can concentrate on navigation and visibility is good, and the terrain has distinctive shape, it is usually faster and more invigorating to navigate using orienteering techniques—a map, a compass and by observation.

However, a GPS gives you freedom to focus on other issues such as photography, botany, or survival in severe conditions.

To realise this advantage, preplanning is necessary. Time will be spent keying positions in and plotting positions back on to maps.

Bushwalking and ski-touring groups should consider carrying a light, low-cost unit as a safety item in case of a white-out or severe geographic embarrassment.

## The field tests

GPS units are complex devices with variations in features likely to suit different buyers. Each model has specific strengths; one model does not have them all.

## Buy right

- Check for attractive deals which include options at little extra cost.
- As an emergency device, the eTrex is attractive.
- For heavy and professional use, the 12XL, GPS 315 and Multi-Navigator present difficult choices, each with different benefits.
- When considering second-hand units, bear in mind that any unit that can process fewer than five satellites simultaneously will not perform well under trees. The tested units all process data from up to 12 satellites.



*You'll lose more than your way if you go out here without your GPS! Stephen Hall*

All tested units worked well under open skies. They established position within the times given in the specifications, and accuracy was well within 15 metres of a known survey point.

Field testing under difficult conditions entailed two tests:

1. We started the units in an open clearing from where they could establish an ac-

curate position and find all visible satellites, then moved at a steady walk into a gully under rain-sodden, 50-year-old mountain-ash forest and tree ferns.

2. We attempted a warm start under the wet forest after the unit had been turned off. The Garmins and Magellans performed alike in the first test. The display indicated that signals were being lost and regained rapidly,

but their position was maintained. The accuracy recovered quickly when we stopped to turn back. A Silva Multi-Navigator was not available for this test but performed as well as the others in a patch of forest in a city park. The MLR model required several ten-second pauses to recover position.

The warm start attempt under the wet forest defeated all units.

## Results

### Garmin eTrex

The eTrex is the smallest, lightest device and is attractively priced. Its accuracy, speed to establish position and tenacity under forest match the best. It is easy to carry; great for emergency location. Its innovative button placement works very well. It is a pity that

so much of the small position display is used for a cartoon when it could be used for larger figures and an indication of accuracy. There aren't any audible warnings; reliance is on displayed messages. It is surprisingly slow to respond to an abrupt change of direction. There isn't any user adjustment for proximity to a waypoint as a route is followed. However, the ability to update

## GPS receivers

	Garmin Taiwan/USA/Europe <a href="http://www.gmc.net.au/garmin/garmin.html">www.gmc.net.au/garmin/garmin.html</a>			Magellan USA/Taiwan <a href="http://www.magellan.com.au">www.magellan.com.au</a>		MLR/Raytheon France <a href="http://www.oceanalk.com.au">www.oceanalk.com.au</a>	Silva UK <a href="http://www.macson.com.au">www.macson.com.au</a>
Model	eTrex	eTrex Summit	12XL	GPS 310	GPS 315	SP12X	Multi-Navigator
Approx price, \$	345	685	585	375	495	330	795
Weight, grams	150	150	269	198	199	255	254
Size, millimetres	113 x 56 x 30	113 x 56 x 30	146 x 51 x 34	158 x 51 x 33	158 x 51 x 33	150 x 51 x 33	170 x 61 x 30
Batteries	2 x AA	2 x AA	4 x AA	2 x AA	2 x AA	4 x AA	2 x AA
Battery life, hours	10-22	10-22	12-24	Up to 20	Up to 15	8-16	10-100
Warm start, seconds	45	45	45	60	60	90	60
Hot start, seconds	15	15	15	15	15	30	10
Response time, paces	16	16 (presumed)	6	5	6	14	4
Waypoints/no of characters in name	500/6	500/6	500/6	100/4	500/6	600/6	1000/8
Comments	No	No	16 characters	No	20 characters	22 characters	Time, date, altitude
No of routes	1 (with 50 points)	1 (with 50 points)	20 (each with 30 points)	1 (with 11 points)	20 (each with 30 points)	20 (each with 20 points)	10 (each with 100 points)
Tracks	10 (2000 points total)	10 (3000 points total)	1 (up to 1024 points)	No	1 (up to 1200 points)	1 (up to 300 points)	No
Plotter	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Remember GoTo	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Man overboard	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Database	No	No	South Pacific	No	World cities	No	No
Estimated Position Error	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Audible alarms	No	No	Arrive, XTE, proximity	No	Arrive, XTE, proximity, anchor	No	Arrive message
Compass	No	Yes (accurate to 5°)	No	No	No	No	Yes (accurate to 3°)
Altimeter	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
Sundry features		Altitude history, barometric history	Position averaging, odometer, sunrise and sunset times, speed average/maximum, distance	Odometer	Position average (auto), odometer, speed average, sun-and-moon rise and set times	User name, PIN number	Altitude maximum, barometric history, weather forecast
Software upgrade	Yes, V 2.05	Yes	Yes, V 4.55	No	Yes, V 3.05	No, V 1.30	Yes
Accessories	Lanyard, manuals		Lanyard, manuals, carry case		Lanyard, manuals		Lanyard, manuals, carry case
Optional extras	Carry case (\$30) PC cable (\$69) Car power cable (\$74) Bike mount bracket (\$37)	Carry case (\$30) PC cable (\$69) Car power cable (\$74) Bike mount bracket (\$37)	Remote antenna (\$107) PC cable (\$72) Car power cable (\$41) Car mount bracket (\$60)	Carry case (\$24) PC/cable (\$104) Car power cable (\$52) Car mount bracket (\$52)	Carry case (\$24) PC/cable (\$104) Car power cable (\$52) Car mount bracket (\$52)	Remote antenna (\$314) Carry case (\$29) PC cable (\$74) Car power cable (\$74)	PC cable/software (\$275) Car mount bracket and power cable (\$152)
Optional software	Mapsource database (\$175)	Mapsource database (\$175)	Mapsource database (\$175)	DataTrack management and plotting (\$154)	DataTrack management and plotting (\$154) DataSend database (\$143)	Waypoint Management, Valpoint (\$129)	GlobalMapPlanner (\$275)

Footnotes are in the order the items appear in the table. Size: length x width x depth. Battery life varies widely, depending on method of use. Warm start: The time it takes to establish a position when the unit is turned on an hour or two after the last position fix. Hot start: The time it takes to establish a position when the unit is turned on within two minutes of the last position fix. Response time: The number of brisk paces taken before the unit responds to a reversal of direction. A short response time makes steering easier. Waypoints or points: Landmarks, destinations, turning points and features to avoid are all stored by name in the GPS. Comments: Additional information, such as the time and date or a photograph/phone number, may be stored in this form. Routes are groups of waypoints. They may be travelled forwards or backwards. Tracks: A 'snail trail' trace of the user's route for retracing forwards or back. This is shown on the plotter display. Plotter: A map-like display of your movements, with neighbouring landmarks, which can be zoomed and panned. Remember GoTo: When turned on, does the unit remember the waypoint with which it was last working? If not, it takes a few seconds of pushing buttons to reset the desired point before checking progress. This takes time, power and risks error each time the waypoint is reselected. Man overboard: A fast method for saving and returning to a waypoint in an emergency. Database: Built-in coordinates for a large number of cities or other features. Estimated Position Error: A computed geometric error dependent on the number and position of the satellites being tracked. It is a desirable feature which indicates the quality of your position fix. Additional errors can result from other causes such as atmospheric conditions and reflections, so this figure should be treated as optimistic. Audible alarms: Some GPS units warn of arrival at destination, proximity to a turning point or a danger such as a reef, a dragging anchor, or a deviation too far off course (the latter is called 'Cross Track Error' or XTE). Alarms may also be displayed. Audible alarms make waterproofing more difficult. Compass: An in-built electronic magnetic compass. Altimeter: An in-built barometric altimeter for more accurate monitoring of climbs and weather. Accurate altitude can improve position accuracy. The altimeter makes waterproofing more difficult. Sundry features: These may include an averaging of position fixes to improve accuracy, an odometer, sun-and-moon rise and set times, average and maximum speed, and maximum altitude. Software upgrade: Can the internal program be upgraded using both the Internet and a personal-computer cable option? The version of software tested is given. Optional software: You can use a PC to prepare, store and edit waypoints, or to display and plot routes on to maps. This requires a PC cable option. The country/region listed after the manufacturer's name is where the products are made.

the software to later releases offers hope that some of these issues will be addressed.

### Garmin eTrex Summit

The eTrex Summit miniaturises an electronic compass and barometric altimeter into the same small package as the eTrex. A compass bearing has been added to the GPS display. Additional displays provide for calibration of compass and altimeter, and give plots of altitude and air pressure trend against time.

### Garmin 12XL

The 12XL is full of functions and is particularly efficient for users entering a series of waypoints to create routes, minimising the button pushing required. Its alarm beep is strong, alerting to the proximity of a change

of course, or danger points. Although requiring four batteries, it consumes them frugally. When carried under a roof and unable to pick up satellites the 12XL beeps loudly, then turns off automatically. When saving a waypoint it gives the choice of an immediate save, or averaging to improve accuracy. In Australia the unit is sold with the 'South Pacific' internal database of cities which includes major suburbs and small towns that can be checked easily. This database is fixed. The nine nearest user waypoints can be displayed, as can the distance and bearing between any two selected waypoints.

### Magellan GPS 310

Both Magellan units have an antenna which is held upright, rather than the flat antenna used by all the other models. The upright stance of the Magellans makes it easy to read the display without reflections when the unit is fixed on the vehicle dashboard.

The GPS 310 is affordable, as accurate and powerful as more expensive models and very quick to respond to changes of direction. It allows routes to be set up but hasn't any options for setting proximity to the turning points. There isn't a way to discover the Estimated Position Error. It hasn't an audible alarm and does not warn of loss of satellite signals other than by the disappearance of the small word 'Tracking' from the display.

### Magellan GPS 315

The GPS 315 is full of functions. Its display has navigation displays that can be customised including one with a very large, bold print. When carried under a roof the unit warns of loss of satellite reception for more than 15 seconds by beeping for about 5 seconds, but does not turn off. When standing still it automatically begins to average position fixes thus improving accuracy. The unit's warning beep is quieter than that of the 12XL. It saves and transfers altitude, time and date as well as position to and from a computer. The built-in city database includes regional cities. Using the database requires a guess about the size of the city required. The optional DataSend software and PC cable enable this database to be customised to suit the region of interest. The GPS 315 stores up to 19820 points of interest. DataSend has been 'Australianised' with vast amounts of local data.

### MLR/Raytheon SP12X

The SP12X has some features targeted at sailors, particularly in Europe. It is often supplied as an accessory to larger nautical systems. It is slower to 'find' itself than the other models and has greater difficulty maintaining position under heavy tree cover while

the user is moving. The SP12X has some unusual features, such as the option to personalise the unit with the owner's name and a four-digit PIN number to safeguard data. With its low price it is of interest in relatively open country and for marine use.

### Silva Multi-Navigator

The Multi-Navigator combines the GPS with an electronic compass, altimeter, and a clever system enabling single-button navigation back to a known point, using the compass in conjunction with the GPS to greatly lengthen battery life on extended trips. A prototype was tested and confirmed claims of its speed to establish position under tree cover.

The Multi-Navigator has a unique, automatic compensation for magnetic deviation. It does not have the plotting feature of the majority of the models tested; instead, it uses a display with lower power consumption and capable of



*The Magellan GPS 310, top left, and the Silva Multi-Navigator.*

operation over a wider range of temperature.

### Datums

All units tested provide for standard Australian and important international datums. (See Info item on page 16.)

### Web sites

For more information, visit the following Web sites: [www.trimble.com/gps/sections/aa\\_f3.htm](http://www.trimble.com/gps/sections/aa_f3.htm) (Trimble, how GPS works) and [joe.mehaffey.com](http://joe.mehaffey.com) (useful reference and help). ☛

John Pappins is an engineer, a computer controller of machine tools, a traveller, a bushwalker, a skier, an investor and a small farmer. Today he is more concerned by our catchments, forests, Landcare, WaterWatch and ethical shareholders' groups. He uses GPS units to confirm his position on 'bushwalks' around logging coupes.



# alpine return ticket

Sometimes you need more than just skill, good planning and luck to make a safe journey home.



These pocket sized products give the adventurer two important advantages. Accurate GPS navigation and the ability to call for help in a genuine emergency.

## ETREX SUMMIT GPS

Uses up to 12 satellites for fast accurate positioning even under heavy foliage. 500 waypoints with name and graphic symbol. Up to 10 saved track logs, TracBack™ allows you to navigate them in both directions. Includes built in magnetic compass, barometric altimeter and elevation computer. 12 month Garmin warranty.

## MT310 PERSONAL EPIRB

Cosmos/Sarsat satellite compatible, simultaneous 121.5/243 MHz operation with 48 hour min. continuous transmission time. With combined beeper/flasher alarm for both self-test and operate modes. Meets CASA regulations for aviation and marine ASINZ standards 4330:1995. Designed and made in Australia. 5 year GME warranty.



**GARMIN**

SYDNEY (02) 8844 6666  
ADELAIDE (08) 8234 2633

MELBOURNE (03) 9590 9333  
PERTH (08) 9455 5744

Exclusive GARMIN Australasian Distributor:



**Electrophone**

For further information  
visit our Website:  
[www.gme.net.au](http://www.gme.net.au)

## WildGUIDES

YOUR BUSH POCKET-PARTNERS

These booklets will guide you to Australia's best wild places, and give advice you can use in the bush.

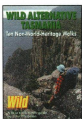
All booklets are covered with clear plastic. Only \$8.20 each.

Available from leading outdoors shops or direct from Wild Publications.

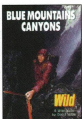
Receive a free booklet of your choice when you subscribe to *Wild*. See the order form in this issue.



Outstanding booklets from the publisher of *Wild*, Australia's wilderness adventure magazine; Wild Publications Pty Ltd, PO Box 415, Prahran, Vic 3181. Phone (03) 9826 8482, fax (03) 9826 3787.



With plastic cover



With plastic cover



With plastic cover



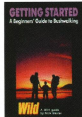
Free in Wild no 64



With plastic cover



With plastic cover



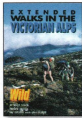
With plastic cover



With plastic cover



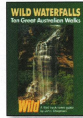
Free in Wild no 54



With plastic cover



Free in Wild no 77



With plastic cover

## Fast and Light

The new Primus Himalaya VariFuel (LFS 3278) lightweight stove runs on liquid fuels like kerosene, white spirit and other petroleum based fuels. The low centre of gravity gives extra stability and the anti-slip pot supports allow the pot to sit firmly on the stove, even when the ground is uneven. Output: 2800 W. Weight 424 gm.

## The Liquid Fuel System

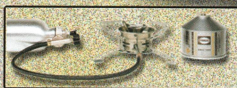


Also available, a range of light weight stoves and lanterns which use economical LP gas cartridges and feature piezo ignition.



### The Multi Fuel System.

The PRIMUS Himalaya MultiFuel (MFS 3288) (left) runs on economical LP gas cartridges as well as on liquid fuels like kerosene, white spirit and other petroleum based fuels. The best of both worlds!



Light weight products distributed in Australia by: Spelean Pty Ltd. Ph: 1 800 634 853 e-mail: [primus@spelean.com.au](mailto:primus@spelean.com.au) <http://www.spelean.com.au>



## HEXAGRIP



The new breakthrough technology incorporated into the Hexagrip self inflating sleeping mats gives a "hexagon" surface that actually grips you, keeping you from slipping or sliding off the mat while you are sleeping. It utilizes a patented process called SMT (Surface Modification Technology) that creates the special "hexagon" surface, to provide extra comfort and enhance the nonslip performance. The rugged nonslip nylon cover is D.W.R. impregnated to protect against water and stains. Every mat features super lightweight bonded open foam construction and easy-to-use cold weather safe valve.



HEXAGRIP MATS use a patented process that creates a hexagon surface, providing extra comfort and enhancing the nonslip performance. Also available with built-in pillows.



- Nonslip fabric top and durable nylon taffeta or oxford bottom.
- Fully bonded construction, open cell foam core.
- Proprietary reflective coating for unsurpassed thermal insulation.
- D.W.R. impregnated nylon protects from water and stains.
- All include a Stuff Sack and Repair Kit.
- Spares: Stuff Sacks, Chair Kits and Repair Kits are available.

- "Warmth Plus Deluxe and "Warmth Plus Deluxe - Lite" models also available.
- CFC free foam..
- Models with built-in pillows also available.
- Cold weather safe valve.
- US patented and others patent pending.



Exclusively distributed in Australia by Spelean Pty Ltd Ph: 1 800 634 853 e-mail: [info@spelean.com.au](mailto:info@spelean.com.au) Internet: <http://www.spelean.com.au>

Sunny Rec Corporation

# LEATHERMAN – the Tool you need when you don't have any Tools!

Leatherman tools measure up to the most rigorous quality standards: Tim Leatherman's. Leatherman sets the standards in the multitool world. Obviously, no one else can say that.



## WAVE

NEEDLE-NOSE PLIERS  
REGULAR PLIERS  
WIRE CUTTERS  
HARD-WIRE CUTTERS  
SERRATED KNIFE  
WOOD SAW  
SMALL SCREWDRIVER  
EXTRA-SMALL SCREWDRIVER  
LARGE SCREWDRIVER  
PHILLIPS-HEAD SCREWDRIVER  
DIAMOND-COATED FILE  
BOTTLE/CAN OPENER  
SCISSORS  
WIRE STRIPPER  
LANYARD ATTACHMENT

## ALSO AVAILABLE



**PST Pocket Survival Tool**  
(the original)



**PST II**  
(PST with scissors)



**Super Tool**  
(all locking features)



**Mini Tool**  
(a more compact PST)

## MICRA



SCISSORS  
CLIP-POINT KNIFE  
TWEEZERS  
NAIL FILE/CLEANER  
MEDIUM SCREWDRIVER  
FLAT PHILLIPS SCREWDRIVER  
BOTTLE OPENER, RULER  
LANYARD ATTACHMENT

also available in Red, Blue and Green

## FLAIR



NEEDLE-NOSE PLIERS  
REGULAR PLIERS  
WIRE CUTTERS  
HARD-WIRE CUTTERS  
CORKSCREW WITH ASSIST  
STRAIGHT/SERRATED KNIFE  
EXTRA-SMALL SCREWDRIVER  
MEDIUM SCREWDRIVER  
LARGE SCREWDRIVER  
PHILLIPS SCREWDRIVER  
WOOD SAW  
20 cm/8 INCH RULER  
CAN OPENER  
SCISSORS  
COCKTAIL FORK  
SPREADER KNIFE  
BOTTLE OPENER

## CRUNCH



LOCKING PLIERS  
WIRE CUTTERS  
HARD-WIRE CUTTERS  
SERRATED KNIFE  
WOOD/METAL FILE  
MEDIUM SCREWDRIVER  
LARGE SCREWDRIVER  
PHILLIPS-HEAD SCREWDRIVER  
HEX-BIT DRIVER  
BOTTLE OPENER  
RULER (METRIC/INCH)  
WIRE STRIPPER  
LANYARD ATTACHMENT

# LEATHERMAN®

ONE TOOL. A COUPLE THOUSAND USES®

FOR YOUR NEAREST LEATHERMAN STOCKIST, CONTACT AUSTRALIAN DISTRIBUTOR:  
ZEN IMPORTS PTY LTD TELEPHONE: 1800 064 200



# Multifunction tools

Darren Green reviews outdoors enthusiasts' tools of the trade

**THE MULTIFUNCTION TOOL, OR MULTITOOL,** appears to be the modern version of the Swiss Army Knives that were fashionable a few years ago and are still popular. Like Swiss Army Knives, these multitools have been 'bastardised' with cheap imitations within the \$10 to \$30 price range available in the shops. The workmanship and quality of materials prove the old saying that you get what you pay for. Demand for these cheap tools—typically they are purchased as gifts—is very high all the same. However, the person who wants a tool that will perform in the field may be a little more discerning and may look for something reliable and, for this reason, I have not considered the cheaper price range in this review. Multifunction tools open up a new aspect to marketing; some manufacturers go a step further and add a great number of tools to an already complex item, or perhaps turn a good product into a gimmick. The basis, or logic, behind multitools is good. I shall point out what to look for when purchasing such a tool.

## Number of tools

A great number of tools is not necessarily desirable and the term 'number of tools' may often mislead. Just how some of the manufacturers count the tools on their product can be difficult to judge. For example, one set of pliers may work like needle-nose pliers and standard pliers, thus giving the wrong impression that there are two sets of pliers. Similarly, multiple slotted screwdrivers reduce the variety of tools. What you should consider is the number of tools that you might use. While each person has his or her end use in mind, ask yourself: 'Will I use the lanyard attachment? How many slotted screwdrivers will I need? Will I use that little notch they call a wire stripper?' and so on. Examine each tool and consider its productive end use, not whether it's handy or not. Excluding unnecessary tools will help to keep the weight down; however, most models may have one or two tools you won't use and this cannot always be avoided. Doubling up on tools may also be overlooked; for example, some multitools have tweezers and scissors, but as your first aid kit has these too, a multitool without these items may be a better choice for those conscious about weight.

## Tool selection

The tool-selection rating is based on the tools considered to be functional, or used productively in the field. Some handy tools are: pliers for grabbing, holding, or crimping; knives for cutting, scraping, routing, carving, notching and digging; Phillips-head and slot-


ted screwdrivers, keeping in mind that slotted screws are becoming less popular in Australia due to the range of Phillips-head self-drilling screws and cordless drill/driver technology; files to smooth, shape, roughen or remove sharp edges; a ruler for measuring. Less likely to be used are items such as saws, scissors, punches, wire strippers, and so on. For example, for sawing a branch greater than 40 millimetres in diameter to use a multitool would not even be contemplated. It

would take less time and energy to break the branch under the heel of your foot! Some tools are perhaps handy in situations such as repairing motor vehicles; however, most vehicles have their own tool kit.

## Design

It is important to be aware of the design and use of tools; disorders relating to repetitive motion and poor posture are now at the forefront of health and safety thinking, and after a day's bushwalk the last thing you need is extra strain or blisters resulting from a minor repair job. Some (but not all) tools are ergonomically designed to reduce the risk of repetitive strain injuries. A few tips to remember: Distribute your grip over as wide an area as possible with little or no pressure on the sides of the fingers. Do not use tools that are slippery or wet, dig into the palm of your hand, have unbalanced or uncomfortable gripping handles—and avoid excessive force or grip when using these tools. A well-designed tool should keep your wrists straight and your elbows close to your body. With this in mind, go through the motions of gripping and using the tool. Fold out every tool to see how accessible each one is. Is the motion smooth? Does it cut or pinch your skin? When the tools are unfolded, do they lock into place—or will they fold up under normal use?

## Value for money

The value-for-money rating is based on an overall assessment of the multitool. It includes uses beyond the field such as minor automotive and electrical repairs and use around the home, as well as simplicity of design and the quality of materials and workmanship. The price may vary widely between shops and should be used as a guide only. 

Darren Green enjoys bushwalking, rockclimbing and nature photography, which is usually a response to his chief interest in the study of reptiles. He has worked in the hardware industry for almost two decades and is employed at Mitre 10.

## Multitools

	Number of tools	Tool selection	Design	Value for money	Approx price, \$
<b>Cooper Tools USA</b>					
Toolball pro #	14	●●●	●●●	●●●	110
<b>Gerber USA</b>					
Multi-Lock	17	●●●	●●	●●	170
Scout	18	●●●	●●	●●	170
<b>Leatherman USA</b>					
Mini-Tool	11	●●	●●	●●	100
Pocket survival tool	13	●●●	●●	●●	120
Super tool	17	●●●	●●	●●	155
Wave	18	●●●	●●●	●●●	210
<b>SOG USA</b>					
Pocket power plier	10	●●	●●	●●	90
Paratool	15	●●	●	●●	120
Power plier	14	●●●	●●●	●●●	135
<b>Victorinox Switzerland</b>					
Swiss tool	23	●●●	●●	●●●	155

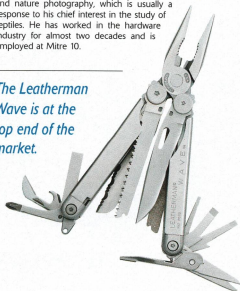
● average ●● better ●●● best # Available in hardware shops All products excluding the Toolball pro are found in most outdoors/camping and disposal shops (plus some hardware and fishing shops) The country listed after the manufacturer/brand name is the country in which the products are made

## Key-ring multitools

	Number of tools	Tool selection	Design	Value for money	Approx price, \$
<b>Leatherman USA</b>					
Micra	10	●●●	●●	●●●	55
<b>Seber Tool USA</b>					
M3	7	●●●	●	●●	50
<b>Swiss-Tech USA</b>					
Microtool	7	●●	●	●●	50

● average ●● better ●●● best These products are found in most outdoors/camping and disposal shops (plus some hardware and fishing shops) The country listed after the manufacturer/brand name is the country in which the products are made

*The Leatherman Wave is at the top end of the market.*



*Aurora*  
TESTED ON HUMANS



LAMB

GUINEA PIG

Paul Sirianni, 31, owner of Aurora Sleeping Bags. What does he demand of every model that leaves the factory? 8 hours sound sleep in a meat fridge. See the bags that made it through at all leading camping and disposals stores, or contact Aurora for a brochure. (03) 9466 1587/36 Green St. Thomastown, VIC 3074.

# Red Cross Murray Marathon

27-31 December 2000

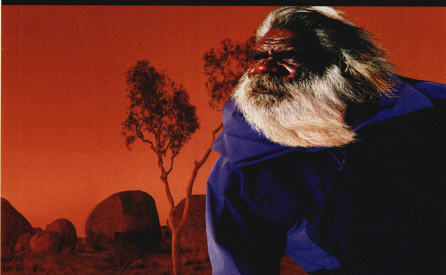
(Registration Day - 26 December, Yarrawonga)

- Five days and 404 kilometres.
- The world's longest canoe race, on Australia's longest river.
- It's tough, it's fun, and it goes a long way to support the Australian Red Cross, Victoria.
- For more details, phone (03) 9685 9839.



**Australian Red Cross**  
 171 City Road, Southbank, Vic 3006

**GONDWANA**  
 CLIMATE CONTROL CLOTHING



For your nearest stockist  
 contact 03 9329 8333 or  
 email [info@texhouse.com.au](mailto:info@texhouse.com.au)

GONE. GONDWANA

RAIN 980985

**It's  
 not just  
 another  
 GPS!**



**The new  
 SILVA GPS  
 Multinavigator**  
 with features unmatched  
 by any other GPS:

- ◆ Electronic compass
- ◆ GPS navigation
- ◆ 1 m altimeter accuracy
- ◆ Barometer
- ◆ Weather forecast

**Only \$795**  
 (including GST)

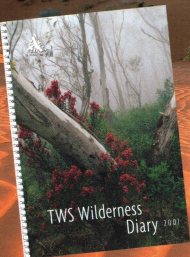
For free, illustrated brochure  
 and your nearest stockist,  
 contact Australian distributors:

**MACSON TRADING CO PTY LTD**  
 44 Alexandra Parade  
 Clifton Hill, Melbourne, 3068  
 Tel: (03) 9489 9766  
 Fax: (03) 9481 5368  
 Email: [info@macson.com.au](mailto:info@macson.com.au)  
[www.silva.se](http://www.silva.se)



# Help us preserve wilderness for another year.

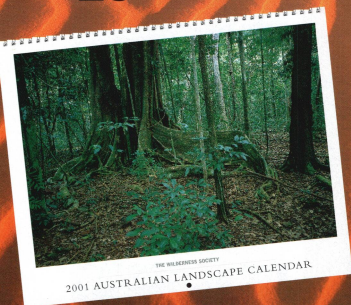
While you are enjoying these stunning full colour images, you are helping The Wilderness Society campaign to save Australia's wild places and unique fauna – many of which are under threat.



**WILDERNESS  
DIARY**  
**\$19.50\***



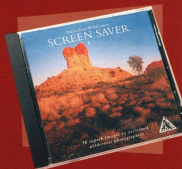
**WILDLIFE  
CALENDAR**  
**\$18.50\***



**LANDSCAPE  
CALENDAR**  
**\$18.50\***

**ORDER CALENDARS NOW**  
Available from August 14

**10% MEMBERS DISCOUNT**



**SCREEN SAVER**  
**\$19.95\***  
AVAILABLE NOW

**PHONE**  
**1800 035 354**

OR 03 6234 9799

FAX 03 6224 9133

EMAIL [sales@wilderness.org](mailto:sales@wilderness.org)

or POST your order to

The Wilderness Society,  
130 Davey St Hobart TAS 7000



**THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY**

\* ALL PRICES INCLUDE GST

## What is a National Park?



Current proposals for a mine within the Gammon Ranges National Park in South Australia have exposed the fact that in reality this park doesn't have much protection. In 1982 several large extensions were made to the park under the description of it being a multiple-use National Park. Permitted uses in what is primarily a wilderness area include mining, grazing and oil and gas extraction.

The present proposal is for an open-cut mine beside Weetootla Gorge in the southern section of the park. This gorge contains permanent springs and a site significant for the Adynamathanha (Aboriginal) community. At present one mining company holds the mining leases for the area. Transfer to and subsequent development of the magnesium resource

are being negotiated by a second mining company.

This proposal will be seen by developers as a test case—if this mine proceeds, development of other reserved areas can also be expected. Multiple-use parks in South Australia comprise 78 per cent of all National Parks in the State. The lease transfer is being considered by the Environment Minister at present.

John Chapman

### ▲ Act now

Write to South Australian Minister for Environment and Heritage Iain Evans, GPO Box 1047, Adelaide, SA 5001.

velopment include the Main Range adjacent to the summit of Mt Kosciuszko; the Deua forest wilderness including the Upper Deua and Tuross Rivers; and the Buckenbowra Wilderness connecting the Budawang with the Deua Wilderness.

In northern NSW consultation on 32 areas totalling about 792 000 hectares is planned to begin in September. Highlights include the headwaters of the Mann River, Levers Plateau on the Border Ranges and the Doyles River west of Wauchope. A further five areas totalling 226 000 hectares considered in other parts of NSW include parts of the Pilliga forest in the central west of the State.

Nearly 1.5 million hectares of wilderness are at stake, so the Carr Government needs to hear your support. Ask Premier Bob Carr to finish the job!

Andrew Cox

### ▲ Act now

Write to the Honourable Bob Carr, Premier of NSW, Parliament House, Sydney, NSW 2000, saying that you seek the completion of the east coast wilderness assessments. Demand that all wilderness that meets the Wilderness Act criteria be protected. Ask Carr fully to protect the wilderness flagged by the CFW's Wilderness 2000 protection plan.

## Mt Cripps on the table!

As a result of a hearing with the Tasmanian Department of Mines, now known as Mineral Resources Tasmania (MRT), the mining company concerned has reduced the area of its proposed exploration lease from 29 to 13 square kilometres in the west of the karst region (see Green Pages, Wild no 77). The company chose this region because it had not been systematically explored for caves.

The mediation session heard objections from North West (Tasmania) Walking Club that a quarry in this region would be visible from Barn Bluff and Mt Romulus. Objections from cavers were that although the area hadn't been explored on the ground, air photos show that the unique polygonal karst extends into this section and it is likely that the area similarly contains further examples of its unique cave fauna. Proposals for mining limestone and dolomite elsewhere in Tasmania were suggested but the company ruled this option out as being too expensive. MRT has given opponents time to lodge objections to the current exploration lease. Australian Speleological Federation Conservation Secretary and Southern Tasmanian Cavekeepers member Arthur Clarke is in the process of doing just that.

Stephen Bunton

consultation on up to 53 wilderness areas—either new or expanded—that may conclude more than a decade of efforts to assess wilderness on the NSW east coast. Most of the new areas were identified but not protected during the recent east coast regional forest assessments. They range from the 105 000 hectare Yengo wilderness west of Sydney to the 'icon' forest regions such as East Chaelundi at Chandlers Creek near Coffs Harbour and smaller areas and additions overlooked in previous assessments.

Conservation groups, coordinated by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness (CFW), are pushing for the full recognition and declaration of all 53 areas under the NSW Wilderness Act as part of the Wilderness 2000 Campaign.

Consultation on 16 southern NSW wilderness regions totalling about 450 000 hectares was planned to begin in July but has been delayed for perhaps several months. Areas requiring protection from future de-

## Bushland disappearing

An estimated 80 million trees were felled yearly in Queensland between 1997 and 1999 Melbourne's Age reported on 12 July. Satellite imagery commissioned by the Queensland Natural Resources Department shows that an average 408 000 hectares of native vegetation were bulldozed each year, up from an average of 340 000 hectares cleared annually between 1995 and 1997.

The Queensland Government has introduced but failed to enact legislation to restrict clearing on freehold land. The failure to enact the law has prompted panic clearing by many farmers who fear that it will restrict their property development options.

## NSW wilderness areas need your support

The New South Wales National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) is undertaking public

NOW WITH  
**SECURE**  
ORDERING

**Wild**  
AUSTRALIA'S WILDERNESS ADVENTURE MAGAZINE

**WEB  
SITE**

*Gateway to  
Australasia's  
outdoors*

Ordering from the *Wild* Web site is now secure. The *Wild* site is regularly updated and information-based. You can see what's in the current issue and order subscriptions, back issues, popular track notes and instruction booklets and other *Wild* products.

The site also provides links to Web sites of useful outdoors products and services.

All *Wild* Directories and Classifieds are on-line at the *Wild* Web site. At the same time that the magazine goes on sale, we update the *Wild* Web site to include each issue's Directories and Classifieds.

Australia is a popular destination for overseas bushwalkers and anyone with an interest in wilderness adventure. The *Wild* Web site is the premier source of bushwalking and wilderness adventure information and gateway to Australasia's outdoors.

WW11

www.wild.com.au

## A CAREER LIKE NO OTHER



**Tropical North Queensland  
Institute of TAFE, Cairns, is  
offering the Certificates II &  
IV in Outdoor Leadership.**

Enjoy the great tropical north Queensland lifestyle while studying in one of the best outdoor environments in the world. Unparalleled adventure tourism opportunities, one hour to wet tropics, Great Barrier Reef and savannah Gulf country with wild rivers, uninhabited coastline and rugged mountain wilderness.

### Study:

- White water canoeing/kayaking
- Sea Kayaking
- River Rescue
- Remote area first aid
- Advanced navigation
- Rockclimbing/abselling
- Bushwalking/expeditioning
- Guiding techniques

Nationally accredited modules, Austudy approved, excellent student support services and most outdoor gear supplied.

**STARTS: Feb 12, 2001**  
**Applications Close:**  
**Nov 17, 2000.**

Contact Tim Trehearn on

**Phone**  
**07 4042 2408**

or Fax 07 4042 2438 and ask  
for an information package.

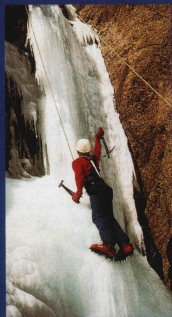
e-mail: Tim.Trehearn@detir.qld.gov.au



**TROPICAL NORTH  
QUEENSLAND  
Institute of TAFE**

TAFE REAL SKILLS FOR REAL JOBS

**ABSEILING  
CANYONING  
ROCKCLIMBING  
ICE CLIMBING  
MOUNTAINEERING**



Courses • Tours • Expeditions

*Australia's Most  
Experienced Instructing  
Team*

**South America  
Aconcagua  
December 2000  
Expedition  
Booking Now!**

*Write or call for your  
free colour brochure  
today!!*

**Australian School of  
Mountaineering**  
166B Katoomba Street  
Katoomba NSW 2780  
Tel: 02 4782 2014  
Fax: 02 4782 5787  
email: asm@pnc.com.au  
www.ausmtn.com.au



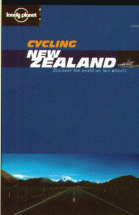
LONELY PLANET'S

# CYCLING

DISCOVER THE WORLD ON TWO WHEELS



WWW.LONELYPLANET.COM



## WOOD-CHIPS

\* An initiative to protect areas in southwestern **Victoria** was launched by Rupert Hamer in Portland on 6 May. Environment Victoria reported. Hamer described the **Great Southwest Parks System** as 'a visionary idea whose time, I think, has come'. The proposal is for a system of interconnected, permanently protected areas covering 170 000 hectares in a great curve from the ocean near Portland, north to the Little Desert National Park and across to the Grampians.

### ▲ Act now

To support the initiative, write to Environment Victoria, 19 O'Connell St, North Melbourne, Vic 3051 or to your local politicians, or newspapers.

\* The **285 hectares** excised from the **Falls Creek region** of Victoria's **Alpine National Park** in November 1997 were returned to the park on 2 June, the Victorian National Parks Association reported. This occurred when the National Parks Amendment Bill was passed in the State's Upper House. In addition, over 19 000 hectares of the **Wongungarra catchment** are to be protected.

\* **Koalas** were listed as a threatened species under the **US Endangered Species Act** in May. This adds to pressure on the subsidiary of a US company over logging in Gippsland's Strzelecki hills, Victoria, the *Age* reported on 11 May. The subsidiary's holdings include native forest that is the home of the only Victorian koalas not descended from the inbred Phillip Island colony.

\* Andrew Cox reports that the **White Paper** proposing amendments to the **NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act** (see Green Pages, Wild no 77) was not released for public comment as planned. Environment groups speculate that this is due to the establishment of an inquiry into the NPWS following the release of the findings of the coronial inquiry into the 1997 landslide at Thredbo. All submissions received so far will be taken into account.

\* In June we were informed that the **Brazilian congress** was voting on a project that would reduce the **Amazon forest** to 50 per cent of its size. The area to be deforested would be mainly used for farming. More than 160 000 square kilometres deforested with the same purpose are abandoned and becoming deserts.

\* Victoria's three independent MPs are pushing for residents to have the **right to sue enterprises polluting the environment** according to the *Age* on 18 May. The proposed amendment to the *Environment Protection Act* means that the Environment Protection Authority would no longer be the only party with legal recourse. ☐

Readers' contributions to this department, including colour slides, are welcome. Typed items of less than 200 words are more likely to be printed. Send them to the Editor, *Wild*, PO Box 415, Prahran, Vic 3181.

# GARMONT



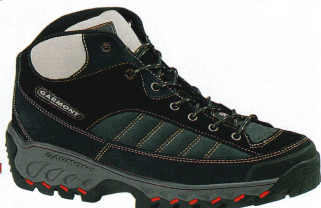
improved performance

improved performance

## R<sup>2</sup> rock and run

Lightweight Phylon midsole with integral flex pattern moulded in for spine. Tapered centre spine is durable Nylon 6. Vertebrae extend at specifically researched angles to stabilise at each phase of the typical gait. Garmont-Vibram outsole flexes with the other components and articulates extensively to keep sharp-edged lugs in ground contact.

R<sup>2</sup>  
Spine System



R<sup>2</sup> Kiowa Man & Woman



R<sup>2</sup> Otero Man & Woman  
(Also available in Stone)

Experience the Garmont R2™ range at your local outdoor retailer.

For your nearest Garmont stockist contact Sitro Group Australia Pty Ltd - (03) 9543 9533 or [www.sitro.com.au](http://www.sitro.com.au)  
or in New Zealand contact ABER Limited - 0800 161 161

# Walkers work for the bush

Bushwalkers' key role in conservation documented

## Battle for the Bush: The Blue Mountains, the Australian Alps and the Origins of the Wilderness Movement

by Geoff Mosley (Colong Foundation, 1999, RRP \$27.50 including postage). To order, phone (02) 9518 6154 or (02) 9299 7341.

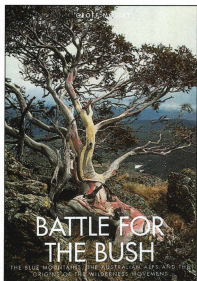
Bushwalking has been an important source of environmental consciousness and action in Australia for several generations. Geoff Mosley (see profile in *Wild* no 1) was for many years involved in conservation activities, particularly through the Australian Conservation Foundation of which he was Director for 13 years, but also through many other organisations.

In this book Mosley traces the lengthy campaigns in relation to the Blue Mountains and the Australian Alps (including East Gippsland and New South Wales's south-east forests). Notable in these accounts is the involvement of bushwalkers.

In NSW the contribution of Myles Dunphy (father of Milo—see profile in *Wild* no 3) looms large. It was his vision for a National Park covering the Blue Mountains which led to the reservation of considerable parts of that region for nature recreation, and then he conducted a lengthy campaign for the Kosciuszko National Park. Myles's activities included what must have been a superb walking trip from Nowra to Harrietville in 1919 to 1920 over several months. His extensive experience of many areas he lobbied to save gave authority to his representations.

In Victoria the struggle to obtain the Alpine National Park was long and difficult, and at times the courage to hold to a magnificent vision waned in the face of government and public indifference and hostility. The National Park is still limited, both in area (it does not extend to the Baw Baws or Mt Buffalo, for example) and in that grazing is still permitted (at huge subsidies) in spite of the known damage. Large areas of the park have been subjected to logging. Downhill skiing resorts are not part of the Alpine National Park, but continue to have a major and detrimental impact on it, even justifying the (recently repealed) excision of the important and sensitive Mt McKay area of the Bogong High Plains from the park (see page 87). The extensive access by four-wheel-drive vehicles remains a major concern for

those who care for wild places. But what has been gained is very important, and again bushwalkers played a key role: Dick Johnson's *The Alps at the Crossroads*, written as it was by a keen walker, gave key impetus to the debate.



Mosley's walk from Canberra to Victoria's Mt Howitt also publicised the unity of these alpine areas and the need for a park to protect the whole.

The forests of south-east NSW and of East Gippsland, too, have been subject to lengthy campaigns and Mosley's perspective on these struggles is fascinating.

The great virtue of this book is that it places into international and chronological perspective the many aspects of the struggle for our wild places which has now been persisting for generations. It is hard to imagine anyone better qualified to write it than Mosley.

Perhaps one day soon we will see the Australian Alps and the forest of the south-eastern corner of Australia inscribed on the World Heritage List as so many reports have said they should be.

Brian Walters

## The Heysen Trail: A Walker's Guide

by Terry Lavender (Bookends Books, 1999, RRP \$21.95 from 136 Unley Rd, Unley, SA 5061).

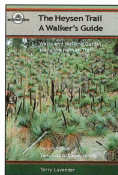
No one is better qualified to pen a guide to South Australia's Heysen Trail than Terry

Lavender. He was there at the trail's conception, assisted in its difficult birth and, more than 20 years on, he continues to be a dotting father.

While the claim that the 1500 kilometre Heysen Trail is the world's longest 'footpath' might be debatable, there is no doubting its popularity. This is especially true of the 330 kilometre stretch this book covers, from the Barossa Valley, south through the Mt Lofty Ranges, to the Fleurieu Peninsula's rugged southern shores.

This is the first in a planned series of volumes documenting the trail's progress to the Flinders Ranges. Written in an engaging style, the guidebook reflects the author's breadth of experience and eye for historical snippets. Unfortunately, the accompanying maps are less informative and do not give the reader a real feeling for the terrain. (Detailed maps are, however, available separately from the book's author.)

Quentin Chester

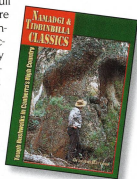


## Namadgi & Tidbinbilla Classics: Tough Bushwalks in Canberra's High Country

by Graeme Barrow (Dagraja Press, 2000, RRP \$19.80 from 3 Verco St, Hackett, ACT 2602).

The latest in a long line of books from Barrow describing one-day walks near Canberra. This is his best yet with the 21 walks complemented by clear maps and illustrations, all in full colour. The walks are interesting as they include off-track sections and visit many lesser known features. With slick production standards, this 84-page guidebook should be popular with walkers based in Canberra.

John Chapman





## Outdoor STAFF & EMPLOYMENT

~ Outdoor/Recreation Employment

~ Specialised Staff for your Program

Visit your online resource NOW!

# OnTrack

Management Services

**www.otms.com.au**

Phone 0500 866 266 Email info@otms.com.au

**www.jagged-globe.co.uk**

### Worldwide Mountaineering Specialists

- Mountaineering
- High altitude expeditions
- Canadian ice-climbing
- New Zealand climbs and courses



Formerly Himalayan Kingdoms Expeditions

From Himalayan trekking peaks for beginners to professionally-led, high-altitude expeditions, including the Seven Summits.

Jagged Globe PO Box 133  
71 Orlando St, Hampton, Victoria 3188  
Tel: (03) 9598 2922 Fax: (03) 9533 5599



Email: [gsports@ocean.com.au](mailto:gsports@ocean.com.au)

**Contact Jagged Globe for your  
FREE colour brochure**

### EXPLORE THE UNIQUE RAINFORESTS OF NORTH NSW

We take you into wilderness areas where tourists on day trips never venture. You carry your pack and we show you the diversity of the rugged hinterland of the North Coast

We offer 3 - 10 day trips and take only small groups of max. 8 people



Ask for our brochure

**HINTERLAND  
TOURS**

19 Lyon St  
Bellingen  
NSW 2454

phone (02) 6655 2957  
fax (02) 6655 9024  
email: [info@hinterlandtour.com.au](mailto:info@hinterlandtour.com.au)



Of all the gear to not forget on your next bushwalk, your Therm-a-Rest tops the list. The Performance Series uses LiteFoam™ which makes them our lightest, most compact comfortable mattresses. What's more, they're expedition-proven and guaranteed for life. Call 1800 882 058 or check out [www.cascadedesigns.com](http://www.cascadedesigns.com) for more information. Sweet dreams.



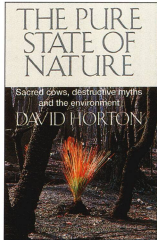
**THERMA-REST**  
THE ORIGINAL SELF-INFLATING MATTRESS

©1999 Cascade Designs, Seattle, WA • More than 25 years of engineering tomorrow's adventures. For product information or a free catalogue call Grant Minervini Agencies Pty Ltd. Ph 1800 882 058

# The Pure State of Nature: Sacred cows, destructive myths and the environment

by David Horton (Allen & Unwin, 2000, RRP \$21.91).

Who killed the megafauna? And did the Aborigines practise 'firestick farming'? And was the Australian landscape 'park like' when Europeans first arrived?



In debates about our environment and how we should deal with it, claims about Aboriginal treatment of the land are frequently made and have even been accepted as too obvious to be doubted.

Regular burning of the bush has been justified on the basis that indigenous Australians did this, and even that it is good for the environment. Even the horrendous loss of species as a result of grazing and logging has been supported on the basis that the Aborigines killed the megafauna, and this is all part of nature's processes.

These issues are important in Australia, affecting nature conservation, development and even such issues as Wik. Our whole concept of wilderness is to some extent affected by these issues: are we seeking to protect the environment as it was 200 years ago, or 50 000 years ago? These are not mere academic questions: the environment is where we live, and we cannot afford to get these things wrong.

In his feisty, vibrant style, which is a joy to read, David Horton, a prominent archaeologist, challenges the 'conventional wisdom' on these issues with authority and common sense. The book looks at the philosophical values underpinning many of the arguments which have been made in the past, and this makes his work particularly valuable.

In many ways *The Pure State of Nature* is a reply to Tim Flannery's book *The Future Eaters*, which has had immense popularity. Horton pulls apart almost every aspect of Flannery's theory.

Horton concludes that if you wish to burn bushland to protect buildings, do it as you would bulldoze a fire-break, but do not pretend that you are doing anything other than damage to the environment.

David Horton's book deserves to be widely influential in our understanding of Australia and its environment.

BW

## My Environmental Exposé

by Tyrone Thomas (Hill of Content, 2000, RRP \$21.91 from 86 Bourke St, Melbourne, Vic 3000).

Tyrone Thomas is well known throughout Australia for his walking guidebooks. In this latest book he invites walkers to appreciate some of his favourite walks, and guides not merely our steps on the track but our observation of what we see about us on the walks. This guide passionately asks us to feel the wonder of the natural environment and the threats to it.

Three main conservation messages are in this book: the need for legislation to protect our wild places from urban ugliness (there are some simple changes that could be made, particularly in preventing the proliferation of needless signage because authorities are afraid of legal liability), the wrong of recreational fishing (let's face it, it is merely hunting of a particular type of creature), and farming and grazing in arid outback areas (where this activity causes great damage and is also not economic without the large, effective subsidies made to the farmers concerned).

The book is not a mere polemic, but invites the walker to see the issues 'on the ground' with the author taking the reader to particular places where the message can be seen.

The book is sensitively written, and the track notes are, as always, very fine. This is a new type of guidebook for walkers, and Tyrone Thomas was just

the person to write it.

BW

## Don't Die in the Bush: the complete guide to Australian camping

by Sven Klinge & Adrian Hart (New Holland, 2000, RRP \$21.95).

This 132-page guide claims to update obsolete camping practices and include the latest advances. It does give a brief overview of most bush sports and includes some modern equipment such as Global Positioning System units but leaves out EPIRBs (emergency position-indicating radio beacons). While the advice is generally good it is

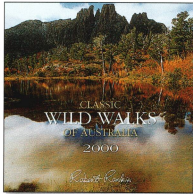
fairly brief and not very comprehensive. The suggestion to plan on walking three kilometres an hour is simply too brief and misleading. While mainly intended for novices, the frequent references to places only known to experienced walkers like 'Port Davey' is confusing. Overall, a reasonable effort for a first edition but it will need considerable attention to details before it can be considered a classic text in the how-to area.

JC

## Classic Wild Walks of Australia 2000 (double CD-ROM set)

(Rankin Publishers, 2000, RRP \$49.95 plus \$6 postage from PO Box 500, Summer Park, Qld 4074 or [www.rankin.com.au](http://www.rankin.com.au)).

Maps, route descriptions, video clips, history, virtual fly-bys, stunning photographs;



you name it and you'll find it on these easy-to-use CDs. One of the best resources to plan and get a feel for your forthcoming trips on some of Australia's wildest walking tracks.

Brandon Eishold

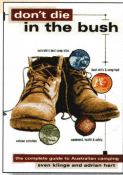
## Environment Map of Australia

(Earth Systems, 2000, RRP \$33 (unlaminated), \$55 (laminated) from Suite 209, 1 Princess St, Kew, Vic 3101).

If you're passionate about the Australian environment and forever looking for facts to back up your arguments, look no further than the Earth Systems *Environment Map of Australia*. It is not only a colourful addition to any household wall but is packed full of information that would sober up even the most fervent capitalist about the current state of our environment.

BE

Publications for possible review are welcome. Send them to the Editor, *Wild*, PO Box 415, Prahran, Vic 3181.



**Wild Directories are the comprehensive reference point for Australasian outdoors-related businesses. For only \$39 an issue you can have your business listed here and reach a worldwide audience. Wild Directories—gateway to Australia's outdoors.**

For information on listing your business in this regular feature, please contact Wild Publications Pty Ltd, PO Box 415, Prahran, VIC 3181. Phone (03) 9826 8482, fax (03) 9826 3787. Email [wild@wild.com.au](mailto:wild@wild.com.au)

## Suppliers

### National Mail-order

**Alpsport**  
1045 Victoria Rd  
West Ryde NSW 2114  
Ph 9858 5844 or  
1800 803 680

**Birkenstock Boutique**  
Shop 13  
Centreway Arcade  
259 Collins St  
Melbourne VIC 3000  
Ph (03) 9654 5423

**Canoes Plus Mail-order**  
140 Cotham Rd  
Kew VIC 3101  
Ph (03) 9816 9411

**Eastern Mountain Centre**  
654B Glenferrie Rd  
Hawthorn VIC 3122  
Ph (03) 9818 1544

**e-camping**  
PO Box 36  
Guys Hill VIC 3807  
Web site [www.e-camping.com.au](http://www.e-camping.com.au)

**It's Extreme**  
32 Spence St  
Cairns QLD 4870  
Web site [www.itsextrême.com](http://www.itsextrême.com)

**Kathmandu Mail-order**  
PO Box 1191  
Collingwood VIC 3066  
Ph 9417 2480 or  
1800 333 484

**K2 Base Camp**  
140 Wickham St  
Fortitude Valley QLD 4006  
Ph (07) 3854 1340

**Melbourne Map Centre**  
PO Box 55  
Holmesglen VIC 3148  
Web site [www.melbmap.com.au](http://www.melbmap.com.au)

**Mountain Equipment**  
491 Kent St  
Sydney NSW 2000  
Fax (02) 9264 2645

**On Rope**  
11 Nelson Ave  
Padstow NSW 2211  
Ph (02) 9709 6299

**Paddy Pallin Mail-order**  
Ph (02) 9525 6829 or  
1800 805 398

**Patagonia Australia Pty Ltd**  
497 Kent St  
Sydney NSW 2000  
Ph 9264 2500 or  
1800 066 625

**Recreational Fabrics**  
PO Box 338  
Ararat VIC 3377  
Ph (03) 5356 6309

**Rick White Signature Series**  
PO Box 112  
Lowood QLD 4311  
Web site [www.rvsgiseries.com](http://www.rvsgiseries.com)

**Snowgum**  
Reply Paid 1343  
PO Box 1343  
Clayton South VIC 3169  
Ph 1800 811 312

**The Safety Network**  
Wilderness First Aid  
Consultants  
PO Box 917  
Jindabyne NSW 2627  
Ph/fax (02) 6457 2339

**Wild Publications Pty Ltd**  
PO Box 415  
Prahran VIC 3181  
Ph (03) 9826 8483

### Australian Capital Territory

**Belconnen Camping World**  
4 Oatley Crt  
Belconnen 2617  
Ph (02) 6253 2699

**CSE Camping & Ski Equipment Pty Ltd**  
16-24 Townshend St  
Phillip 2606  
Ph (02) 6282 3424

**Jurkiewicz Adventure Sports**  
47 Wollongong St  
Fyshwick 2609  
Ph (02) 6280 6033

**Kathmandu Pty Ltd**  
20 Allara St  
Canberra 2601  
Ph (02) 6257 5926

**Mountain Designs**  
6 Lonsdale St  
Braddon 2601  
Ph (02) 6247 7488

**Paddy Pallin**  
11 Lonsdale St  
Braddon 2601  
Ph (02) 6257 3883

**Snowgum**  
26 Mort St  
Braddon 2601  
Ph (02) 6257 2250

### New South Wales

**Alpsport**  
1045 Victoria Rd  
West Ryde 2114  
Ph 9858 5844 or  
1800 803 680

**Bushcraft Equipment**  
29 Stewart St  
Wollongong 2500  
Ph (02) 4229 6748

**Coast Camping Centre**  
17 Lambton Rd  
Broadmeadow 2292  
Ph (02) 4969 4460

**Eastwood Camping Centre**  
Pty Ltd  
3 Trelawney St  
Eastwood 2122  
Ph (02) 9858 3833

**Great Outdoors Centre**  
Pty Ltd  
82 Parramatta Rd  
Lidcombe 2141  
Ph (02) 9647 1488

**Great Outdoors Centre**  
Pty Ltd  
273 Crown St  
Wollongong 2500  
Ph (02) 4228 8004

**Hangdog Climbing Gym**  
Pty Ltd  
130 Auburn St  
Wollongong 2500  
Ph (02) 4225 8369

**Kathmandu Pty Ltd**  
Mandarin Centre  
Cnr Victor St and  
Albert Ave  
Chatswood 2067  
Ph (02) 9410 0963

**Kathmandu Pty Ltd**  
Shop 34A  
Town Hall Arcade  
Cnr Kent & Bathurst Sts  
Sydney 2000  
Ph (02) 9261 8901

**Kinetix Sports Clothing**  
71 Princes Hwy  
Cobargo 2550  
Ph (02) 6493 6490

**Mountain Designs**  
490 Dean St  
Albury 2640  
Ph (02) 6021 0133

**Mountain Designs**  
5/109 Dangar St  
Armidale 2350  
Ph (02) 6771 5991

**Paddy Pallin**  
166B Katoomba St  
Katoomba 2780  
Ph (02) 4782 4466

**Paddy Pallin**  
527 Kingsway  
Miranda 2228  
Ph (02) 9525 6829

**Paddy Pallin**  
Shop 2  
74 Macquarie St  
Parramatta 2150  
Ph (02) 9633 1113

**Paddy Pallin**  
507 Kent St  
Sydney 2000  
Ph (02) 9264 2685

**Patagonia Australia Pty Ltd**  
497 Kent St  
Sydney 2000  
Ph 9264 2500 or  
1800 066 625

**Rocksports Adventure**  
& Travel Equipment  
1 Ross St  
Glenbrook 2773  
Ph (02) 4739 3152

**Single Rope Technique**  
9 Nelson Ave  
Padstow 2211  
Ph (02) 9796 3455

**Snowgum**  
Shop 4, Charlestown  
Convenience Centre  
158 Pacific Hwy  
Charlestown 2290  
Ph (02) 4942 3337

**Snowgum**  
77 Archer St  
Chatswood 2067  
Ph (02) 9412 2113

**Snowgum**  
3 Gympie Bay Rd  
Gympie 2227  
Ph (02) 9524 1195

**Snowgum**  
73 Macquarie St  
Parramatta 2150  
Ph (02) 9635 7715

**Snowgum**  
447 Kent St  
Sydney 2000  
Ph (02) 9261 3435

**Snowgum**  
Shop 3  
56 Forsyth St  
Wagga Wagga 2650  
Ph (02) 6921 2465

**Summit Gear**  
(In laneway)  
88 Katoomba St  
Katoomba 2780  
Ph (02) 4782 3467

**Wilderness Sports**  
Shop 4  
Nuggets Crossing  
Jindabyne 2627  
Ph (02) 6456 2966

### Northern Territory

**Adventure Equipment**  
Darwin  
41 Cavenagh St  
Darwin 0800  
Ph (08) 8941 0019

**NT General Stores Pty Ltd**  
42 Cavenagh St  
Darwin 0800  
Ph (08) 8981 8242

### Queensland

**Adventure Camping**  
Equipment  
11 Ross River Rd  
Townsville 4812  
Ph (07) 4775 6116

**Adventure Equipment Cairns**  
133 Grafton St  
Cairns 4870  
Ph (07) 4031 2669

**Adventure Gear**  
132 Wickham St  
Fortitude Valley 4006  
Ph (07) 3252 4744

**Globe Trekker Adventure Gear**  
142 Albert St  
Brisbane 4000  
Ph (07) 3221 4476

**It's Extreme**  
350 Shute Harbour Rd  
Airlie Beach 4802  
Ph (07) 4948 2355

**It's Extreme**  
32 Spence St  
Cairns 4870  
Ph (07) 4051 0344

**Kathmandu Pty Ltd**  
144 Wickham St  
Fortitude Valley 4006  
Ph (07) 3252 8054

**K2 Base Camp**  
140 Wickham St  
Fortitude Valley 4006  
Ph (07) 3854 1340

**Mountain Designs**  
105 Albert St  
Brisbane 4000  
Ph (07) 3221 6756

**Mountain Designs**  
120 Wickham St  
Fortitude Valley 4006  
Ph (07) 3216 1866

**Mountain Designs**  
409 Ruthven St  
Toowoomba 4350  
Ph (07) 4637 8800

**Paddy Pallin**  
Adventure Equipment  
138 Wickham St  
Fortitude Valley 4006  
Ph (07) 3252 4408

**Rex Burrell**  
Camping Warehouse  
211 Anzac Ave  
Toowoomba 4350  
Ph (07) 4634 4088

**Torre Mountaineering Pty Ltd**  
171-174 West Tce  
Adelaide 5000  
Ph (08) 8410 5448

### South Australia

**Acme Wall Company**  
171-174 West Tce  
Adelaide 5000  
Ph (08) 8410 5448

**Annagarna Outdoor Shop**  
210 Rundle St  
Adelaide 5000  
Ph (08) 8223 4633

**Mountain Designs**  
208 Rundle St  
Adelaide 5000  
Ph (08) 8232 0690

**Paddy Pallin**  
228 Rundle St  
Adelaide 5000  
Ph (08) 8232 3155

**All Wild Directories are now also on-line. They can be seen at our Web site: <http://www.wild.com.au>**

**Mountain Designs**  
(factory outlet)  
Shop 16  
9 Spring St  
Chatswood 2067  
Ph (02) 9415 4566

**Mountain Designs**  
190 Katoomba St  
Katoomba 2780  
Ph (02) 4782 5999

**Mountain Designs**  
Unit 2  
Cnr King and National Park Sts  
Newcastle 2300  
Ph (02) 4962 3311

**Mountain Designs**  
499 Kent St  
Sydney 2000  
Ph (02) 9267 3822

**Mountain Equipment**  
72 Archer St  
Chatswood 2067  
Ph (02) 9419 6955

**Mountain Equipment**  
106 George St  
Hornsby 2077  
Ph (02) 9477 5467

**Mountain Equipment**  
491 Kent St  
Sydney 2000  
Ph (02) 9264 5888

**Nev Anderson Maps**  
(Wholesale)  
30 Fawcett St  
Ryde 2112  
Ph (02) 9878 2809

**On Rope**  
11 Nelson Ave  
Padstow 2211  
Ph (02) 9709 6299

**Paddy Pallin**  
Shop 5  
62 Owen St  
Huskisson 2540  
Ph (02) 4441 7448

**Paddy Pallin**  
Opposite Thredbo turn-off  
Jindabyne 2627  
Ph (02) 6456 2922 or 1800 623 459



Scout Outdoor Centre  
192 Rundle St  
Adelaide 5000  
Ph (08) 8223 5544

The Wilderness Shop  
Shop 13  
Victoria Square Arcade  
Adelaide 5000  
Ph (08) 8231 0625

## Tasmania

Allgoods Pty Ltd  
10 Rooke St  
Devonport 7310  
Ph (03) 6424 7099

Allgoods Pty Ltd  
360 Main Rd  
Glenorchy 7010  
Ph (03) 6273 2933

Allgoods Pty Ltd  
71 York St  
Launceston 7250  
Ph (03) 6331 3644

Mountain Designs  
217 Tarleton St  
Devonport 7310  
Ph (03) 6427 8699

Mountain Designs  
74 Elizabeth St  
Hobart 7000  
Ph (03) 6234 3900

Mountain Designs  
2/41 York St  
Launceston 7250  
Ph (03) 6334 0988

Paddy Pallin  
76 Elizabeth St  
Hobart 7000  
Ph (03) 6231 0777

Paddy Pallin  
110 George St  
Launceston 7250  
Ph (03) 6331 4240

The Wilderness Society Shop  
Shop 8  
The Galleria  
33 Salamanca Pl  
Hobart 7000  
Ph (03) 6234 9370

## Victoria

Adventure Designs  
PO Box 438  
Flemington 3031  
Ph (03) 9372 2555

Ajays Snow Country Sports  
115 Canterbury Rd  
Heathmont 3135  
Ph (03) 9720 4647

Arapiles Mountain Shop  
69 Main St  
Natimuk 3409  
Ph (03) 5387 1529

Birkenstock Boutique  
Shop 13  
Centreway Arcade  
259 Collins St  
Melbourne 3000  
Ph (03) 9634 3423

Bogong  
174 Little Bourke St  
Melbourne 3000  
Ph (03) 9600 0599

Bogong  
78 Oxford St  
Collingwood 3066  
Ph (03) 9415 7599

Bright Disposals  
& Outdoor Centre  
9 Ireland St  
Bright 3741  
Ph (03) 5755 1818

Canoes Plus Pty Ltd  
140 Cotham Rd  
Kew 3101  
Ph (03) 9816 9411

Eastern Mountain Centre  
6548 Glenferrie Rd  
Hawthorn 3122  
Ph (03) 9818 1544

Kathmandu Pty Ltd  
Level 2  
376 Little Bourke St  
Melbourne 3000  
Ph (03) 9642 1942

Kathmandu Pty Ltd  
Warehouse Outlet  
161 Smith St  
Fitzroy 3065  
Ph (03) 9419 1868

Melbourne Map Centre  
740 Waverley Rd  
Chadstone 3148  
Ph (03) 9569 5472

Melbourne Map Centre  
259 High St  
Kew 3101  
Ph (03) 9853 3526

Mountain Designs  
970 Whitehorse Rd  
Box Hill 3128  
Ph (03) 9899 1900

Mountain Designs  
(factory outlet)  
132 Smith St  
Collingwood 3066  
Ph (03) 9417 5300

Mountain Designs  
9/171-181 Moorabool St  
Geelong 3220  
Ph (03) 5229 6000

Mountain Designs  
654A Glenferrie Rd  
Hawthorn 3122  
Ph (03) 9818 0188

Mountain Designs  
373 Little Bourke St  
Melbourne 3000  
Ph (03) 9670 3354

Mountain Designs  
Shop 1  
Southside Central  
37 Princes Hwy  
Traralgon 3844  
Ph (03) 5174 4877

NRE Information Centre  
8 Nicholson St  
East Melbourne 3002  
Ph (03) 9637 8080

One Planet  
PO Box 438  
Flemington 3031  
Ph (03) 9372 2555

Paddy Pallin  
8 Market St  
Box Hill 3128  
Ph (03) 9898 8596

Paddy Pallin  
360 Little Bourke St  
Melbourne 3000  
Ph (03) 9670 4845

Paddy Pallin  
88 Maroonah Hwy  
Ringwood 3134  
Ph (03) 9879 1544

Patagonia Australia Pty Ltd  
370 Little Bourke St  
Melbourne 3000  
Ph (03) 9642 2266

Pinnacle Outdoors  
55 Hardware St  
Melbourne 3000  
Ph (03) 9642 2955

Recycled Recreation  
96 Canterbury Rd  
Blackburn 3130  
Ph (03) 9894 4755

Recycled Recreation  
110 Smith St  
Collingwood 3066  
Ph (03) 9416 4066

Sam Bear Outdoor Gear  
225 Russell St  
Melbourne 3000  
Ph (03) 9663 2191

The Wilderness Shop Pty Ltd  
969 Whitehorse Rd  
Box Hill 3128  
Ph (03) 9898 3742

## Western Australia

MainPeak Pty Ltd  
31 Jarrad St  
Cottesloe 6011  
Ph (08) 9385 2552

MainPeak Pty Ltd  
415 Hay St  
Subiaco 6008  
Ph (08) 9388 9072

Mountain Designs  
16 Stephen St  
Bunbury 6230  
Ph (08) 9791 9888

Mountain Designs  
3 Queensgate Centre  
William St  
Fremantle 6160  
Ph (08) 9335 1431

Mountain Designs  
862 Hay St  
Perth 6000  
Ph (08) 9322 4774

Paddy Pallin  
884 Hay St  
Perth 6000  
Ph (08) 9321 2666

Snowgum  
581 Murray St  
West Perth 6005  
Ph (08) 9321 5259

## New Zealand

Kathmandu Ltd  
350 Queen St  
Canterbury & Rutland Sts  
Auckland  
Ph 64 9 309 4615

Kathmandu Ltd  
235 High St  
Christchurch  
Ph 3 366 7148

Kathmandu Ltd  
18 George St  
Dunedin  
Ph 3 479 2484

Kathmandu Ltd  
34 Manners St  
Wellington  
Ph 64 4 801 8755

Mountain Services  
International Ltd  
Room 1403  
Sam Cheong Building  
220 Des Voeux Rd  
Central  
Ph 852 541 8876

Mountain Services  
International Ltd  
Room 1403  
Sam Cheong Building  
220 Des Voeux Rd  
Central  
Ph 852 541 8876

Mountain Services  
International Ltd  
Room 1403  
Sam Cheong Building  
220 Des Voeux Rd  
Central  
Ph 852 541 8876

## Adventure activities

### New South Wales

Australian Andean Adventures  
Shop P33  
Imperial Arcade  
Pitt St Mall  
Sydney 2000  
Ph (02) 9235 1889

Australian School  
of Mountaineering  
166B Katoomba St  
Katoomba 2780  
Ph (02) 4782 2014

Hangdog Climbing Gym  
Pty Ltd  
130 Auburn St  
Wollongong 2500  
Ph (02) 4225 8369

High 'n' Wild  
Mountain Adventures  
Private Mail Bag no 5  
Jindabyne 2627  
Ph (02) 6456 2922 or  
1800 623 459

Off the Beaten Tracks  
81 Hay St  
Collaroy 2097  
Ph (02) 9982 9252

Onda Travel  
791 King Georges Rd  
South Hurstville 2221  
Ph (02) 9547 2155

Rocksports Adventure Training  
1 Ross St  
Glenbrook 2773  
Ph (02) 4739 3152

Wilderness Sports  
Shop 4  
Nuggets Crossing  
Jindabyne 2627  
Ph (02) 6456 2966

Wildwater Adventures  
754 Pacific Hwy  
Boambee South  
via Coffs Harbour 2450  
Ph (02) 6653 3500

Wildwater Adventures  
754 Pacific Hwy  
Boambee South  
via Coffs Harbour 2450  
Ph (02) 6653 3500

Wildwater Adventures  
754 Pacific Hwy  
Boambee South  
via Coffs Harbour 2450  
Ph (02) 6653 3500

Wildwater Adventures  
754 Pacific Hwy  
Boambee South  
via Coffs Harbour 2450  
Ph (02) 6653 3500

Wildwater Adventures  
754 Pacific Hwy  
Boambee South  
via Coffs Harbour 2450  
Ph (02) 6653 3500

Wildwater Adventures  
754 Pacific Hwy  
Boambee South  
via Coffs Harbour 2450  
Ph (02) 6653 3500

Wildwater Adventures  
754 Pacific Hwy  
Boambee South  
via Coffs Harbour 2450  
Ph (02) 6653 3500

Wildwater Adventures  
754 Pacific Hwy  
Boambee South  
via Coffs Harbour 2450  
Ph (02) 6653 3500

Wildwater Adventures  
754 Pacific Hwy  
Boambee South  
via Coffs Harbour 2450  
Ph (02) 6653 3500

Wildwater Adventures  
754 Pacific Hwy  
Boambee South  
via Coffs Harbour 2450  
Ph (02) 6653 3500

Wildwater Adventures  
754 Pacific Hwy  
Boambee South  
via Coffs Harbour 2450  
Ph (02) 6653 3500

Wildwater Adventures  
754 Pacific Hwy  
Boambee South  
via Coffs Harbour 2450  
Ph (02) 6653 3500

Wildwater Adventures  
754 Pacific Hwy  
Boambee South  
via Coffs Harbour 2450  
Ph (02) 6653 3500

Wildwater Adventures  
754 Pacific Hwy  
Boambee South  
via Coffs Harbour 2450  
Ph (02) 6653 3500

Arapiles Climbing Guides  
87 Main St  
Natimuk 3409  
Ph (03) 5387 1284 or  
1800 357 035

Bogong Jack Adventures  
(Ecotrek)  
PO Box 4  
Kangarilla 5157  
Ph (08) 8383 7198

Canoe Kayak Education  
Australia  
140 Cotham Rd  
Kew 3101  
Ph (03) 9817 5934

Kayake Recreation  
& Adventure Consultants  
3 Yamba St  
Clifton Hill 3068  
Ph (03) 9482 2433

Peregrine Adventures Pty Ltd  
2nd Floor  
258 Lonsdale St  
Melbourne 3000  
Ph (03) 9663 8611

The Hardrock Climbing  
Company Pty Ltd  
Unit 2  
16 Varman Crt  
Nunawading 3131  
Ph (03) 9894 4183

Victorian Board of  
Canoe Education  
332 Banyule Rd  
Viewbank 3084  
Ph (03) 9459 4277

Victorian Board of  
Canoe Education  
332 Banyule Rd  
Viewbank 3084  
Ph (03) 9459 4277

Victorian Board of  
Canoe Education  
332 Banyule Rd  
Viewbank 3084  
Ph (03) 9459 4277

Victorian Board of  
Canoe Education  
332 Banyule Rd  
Viewbank 3084  
Ph (03) 9459 4277

Victorian Board of  
Canoe Education  
332 Banyule Rd  
Viewbank 3084  
Ph (03) 9459 4277

Victorian Board of  
Canoe Education  
332 Banyule Rd  
Viewbank 3084  
Ph (03) 9459 4277

Victorian Board of  
Canoe Education  
332 Banyule Rd  
Viewbank 3084  
Ph (03) 9459 4277

Victorian Board of  
Canoe Education  
332 Banyule Rd  
Viewbank 3084  
Ph (03) 9459 4277

Victorian Board of  
Canoe Education  
332 Banyule Rd  
Viewbank 3084  
Ph (03) 9459 4277

Victorian Board of  
Canoe Education  
332 Banyule Rd  
Viewbank 3084  
Ph (03) 9459 4277

Victorian Board of  
Canoe Education  
332 Banyule Rd  
Viewbank 3084  
Ph (03) 9459 4277

Victorian Board of  
Canoe Education  
332 Banyule Rd  
Viewbank 3084  
Ph (03) 9459 4277

Victorian Board of  
Canoe Education  
332 Banyule Rd  
Viewbank 3084  
Ph (03) 9459 4277

Victorian Board of  
Canoe Education  
332 Banyule Rd  
Viewbank 3084  
Ph (03) 9459 4277

Victorian Board of  
Canoe Education  
332 Banyule Rd  
Viewbank 3084  
Ph (03) 9459 4277

## Papua New Guinea

New Guinea Expeditions  
Lower Ground Floor  
100 Clarence St  
Sydney 2000  
Ph (02) 9290 2055

## USA

Alaska World Wide Adventures  
PO Box 220204  
Anchorage Alaska 99522  
Email akwid@alaska.net

## CLASSIFIEDS

**Wild Classifieds are the comprehensive trading post, whether you're selling old gear or promoting your club or business. Wild Classifieds are the cheap and effective way of getting your message across. For only \$1.50 a word (minimum \$15) prepaid, you will reach a worldwide audience. Wild Classifieds—gateway to Australia's outdoors.**

Simply phone, fax, email or write to tell us the wording of your ad, pay for it with a cheque or credit card (over the phone with a credit card if you wish) and we will take care of the rest. Please contact Wild Publications Pty Ltd, PO Box 415, Prahran, Vic 3181. Phone (03) 9826 8482, fax (03) 9826 3787, email wild@wild.com.au

**Deadlines:**  
15 January (autumn issue),  
15 April (winter),  
15 July (spring),  
8 October (summer).  
Advertisements will be inserted in the first available issue.  
We reserve the right to alter or reject any advertisement and will not be held responsible for errors although every care is taken.

All advertisements are accepted on the express condition that they do not in any way infringe the Trade Practices Act or violate any existing copyright or trade mark.

## CLIMBING WALLS

**Climbing walls.** Entre-Prises, the world leader in sport-climbing structures, can solve your climbing wall needs regardless of the size of the project. Call Philip Toomer on (02) 9966 9080.

## CLUBS

**Australian Sport Climbing Federation.** The UIAA representative in Australia. Join now for \$30. Branches in most States. Membership forms available. PO Box 1043, Artarmon, NSW.  
Phone (0418) 248 804, fax (02) 9818 7118.

## EDUCATION

**Become a fitness expert.** Great career opportunities. Approved home study.

Free literature: PCDI, 430 Technology Parkway, Atlanta, Georgia 30092, USA. Dept EELU02.

**Wildlife conservation/forestry/ecology careers.** Home study. Free literature. Send today to PCDI, 430 Technology Parkway, Atlanta, Georgia 30092, USA. Dept NNLU02.

## GEAR

**Dagger Australia.** Manufacturer, importer and exporter of Dagger canoes and kayaks in Australia and the Pacific region. All enquiries are welcome. 1401 Cotham Rd, Kew, Vic 3101. Phone (03) 9816 9411, fax (03) 9817 9411.  
Dagger@canopusplus.com.au  
www.canopusplus.com.au

**Fleece** sold by the metre. Gang-Lo Adventure Gear, PO Box 305, Airers Inlet, 3231. Ph (03) 5289 7264.

**Mossie nets for backpackers.** Aussie made. Great for indoors or out. Super light, rugged, non-tearable black net. Keeps out all insects. Compacts into tiny bag. Single \$39.95, Double \$59.95. Our famous No Flies Nets for hats also available. Free call, free brochure 1800 062 087.

**Polartec jackets, tops, pants.** From \$30. Many colours, prints in 300, 200, 15, M, L, XL. Call 033 9830 0066. Impex Trading, 59 Canterbury Rd, Canterbury.

**Rad-Pads** cloth menstrual pads. 100% cotton, very comfortable and reliable. Last for years. Mail order and information: PO Box 786, Castleman, 3450. Phone (03) 5472 4922, fax (03) 5472 4966.

**Recreational Fabrics.** National mail-order of ski wear patterns and high-tech fabrics for the outdoors. We have 65+ fabrics including Polartec, Milair, Gore-Tex and Cordura. Enquiries: Phone (03) 5356 6309, fax (03) 5356 6322. PO Box 338, Ararat, Vic 3377.

## PUBLICATIONS

**Rock back issues.** Only these back issues remain: nos 1 (guidebook-sized reproduction with plastic cover), 21 (climbing instruction survey), 22 (Melbourne area guidebook), 23 (You Yangs guidebook), 24 (Werribee George guidebook), 25 (New Zealand Alpine guidebook), 26, 27 (Thailand guidebook), 28, 29, 30 (Nowra update and New Climbs guidebook), 31, 32, 33 (The Rock and New Climbs guidebook), 34 (including guidebook-sized reproduction of Rock no 1), 35, 36, 37 (Wonderland Range guidebook offer), 38 (Mt Ceryon & the Acropolis and New Climbs guidebook), 39, 40, 41, 42 (Perth update and New Climbs guidebook) and 43 (See Rock order form bound in this issue).

**Wild.** Complete set (issues 1-76) with all six indexes. \$295. Phone Chris (03) 9826 8482.

**Wild.** Single copies of the following previously sold out issues have been unearthed and are available on a strictly first-come, first-served basis from

Wild Publications. No 15 \$10. No 40 \$799 each. Some copies may be slightly damaged. Phone (03) 9826 8483.

## REPAIRS

**All repairs.** We repair: packs, sleeping-bags fixed, refilled and washed; tents and poles, all clothing (including patching and tape-sealing Gore-Tex and other rainwear) and modifications. Venus Repair Workshop, Suite 36a, 104 Bathurst St, Sydney. (02) 9627 0706, venus@bigpond.com

**Big John's Retreads.** Specialist rock shoe repairs. Soles \$40/pair. Rand repairs \$10/pair. Soles permanently pressed to guarantee a quality bond. Return post \$6.00, four day turn-around standard. Include contact number. PO Box N122, Petersham NSW, 2049. 0407 205 771.

**Go down.** Rejuvenate your sleeping-bag with a refill of 800+ loft, 100% Siberian goose-down. \$45 per 100 grams plus refill fee of \$45. Rick White Signature Series, Australia (07) 5426 1007, fax (07) 5426 2643. Web site www.rwsgseries.com

**All Wild Classifieds are now also on-line. They can be seen at our Web site: <http://www.wild.com.au>**

**Remote Equipment Repairs.** Specialising in repairs to alterations to packs, tents, sleeping-bags (cleaning and down-boasting), Gore-Tex rainwear, fleece and ski clothing, alloy tent poles, self-inflating camp rests, proofing tents and rainwear, zippers. Australia-wide service. Third floor, 373 Little Bourke St, Melbourne, 3000. Phone (03) 9670 2586, fax (03) 9670 7412.

**Torre Mountaintcraft.** All repairs—outdoor gear. Down sleeping-bags, clothing, washing, boosting, repairs. 185 Mogill Rd, Taringa, Qld 4068. Phone (07) 3870 2699, www.torremountcraft.com.au

**Walking boot repairs.** Repairs available for Scarpa, Zamberlan and other makes where soles are available. The adventure footwear cobbler's swiftness services all repairs at the best price and quality. Over ten years' experience. Big John's Retreads, Phone (0407) 205 771 or (02) 9518 1311. PO Box N122, Petersham, 2049.

## TRAVEL INSTRUCTION

**Abseiling, Canyoning, Bush Skills Courses, Rock-climbing, Mountaineering.** Australia's only adventure operator run by internationally qualified mountain guides. Abseiling: beginners and advanced tips. Abseil Leaders' Certificate Course; Canyoning: 17 different trips, beginners to advanced. Bush Skills: survival, navigation, bush food tips. Rock-climbing: beginners' courses, private

guiding; Mountaineering: Introductory Course Kosciuszko, Guiding and Instruction Mt Cook (NZ). Bad weather guarantee: monthly draw for a FREE trip. For free trip notes, contact HIGH n WILD Mountain Adventures, 3/5 Katumba Street, Katoomba, NSW 2780. Phone (02) 4782 6224, fax (02) 4782 6124, www.high-n-wild.com.au

**Abseiling, caving, climbing at Mt Buffalo.** Abseils to 300 metres, Adventure Guides Australia. 38 Victoria Rd, Beechworth, 3747. (03) 5728 1804.

**Absolutely up-to-date instructor training.** Nationally accredited outdoor leader qualifications. Flexible delivery. Distance education. Recognition of prior learning. WorthWild (07) 3833 4330. info@worthwild.com.au

**Adventure Consultants Ltd.** World-renowned expedition guiding company operating in the Himalayas, South America, Antarctica, Indonesia and New Zealand. Guy Cotter and our internationally qualified guides share your spirit of adventure.

Himalayan treks, high-altitude expeditions. Mountaineering instruction courses. Wilderness journeys. Professional leadership, small teams and complete logistical support. Phone +64 3 443 8711, fax +64 3 443 8733, www.adventure.co.nz info@adventure.co.nz

**Alpine courses, private guiding and expeditions.** From our Queenstown base, NZ's premier adventure capital! We offer all kinds of climbing adventures—year round. We have climbed Mt Everest, Cho Oyu, Shisha Pangma and Island Peak. So join us on an adventure of a lifetime. Mountain Works Ltd, PO Box 647, Queenstown 9197, New Zealand. Telephone/fax 64 3 442 7329, email minworks@queenstown.co.nz Web site www.mountainworks.co.nz

**Alpine Recreation.** Join us at Caroline Hut, the only private hut in Mt Cook National Park, for the three-day Ball Pass Crossing, New Zealand's highest guided trek; or for a four-day introductory climbing programme. Climb Mt Cook or Tasman with one of our experienced NZMAA guides. Cottlieb Braun-Elger (UIAGM), Box 75, Lake Tekapo, New Zealand. Phone 64 3 680 6736, fax 64 3 680 6765, email alpine@voyager.co.nz www.alpinerecreation.co.nz

**Arapires!** Learn how to rock-climb at the best rock in Australia with The Climbing Company. Friendly, professional instruction for individuals and groups. Phone Louise Shepherd

(03) 5387 1558 or Chris Peisker (03) 5387 1329. Email climbco@wimmera.com.au

**Base Camp & Beyond.** Professional instruction in all aspects of rock climbing, abseiling and rescue for individuals or groups. Your particular needs will receive my personal attention as an experienced, CIAA-accredited instructor. Operating at Grampians/Arapires since 1982. Halls Gap, 3381. Phone/fax (03) 5356 4300, email basecamp@grampians.net.au

**Best bushwalks!** Victorian Alps, Grampians, Flinders Ranges, Heysen Trail and Kangaroo Island. Ecotrek/Bogong Jack Adventures, PO Box 4, Kanganilla, SA 5157. Phone (08) 8383 3388, fax (08) 8383 3777.

**Brigitte and Jo Muir.** 26 years of adventuring at your service. Rockclimbing, mountaineering (Himalayas, South America...), outback and bush walks, motivational lectures. Try our free "which expedition service" we help you find the trip that's right for you. Check [www.netconnect.com.au/~aplus](http://www.netconnect.com.au/~aplus) Email us on [aplus@netconnect.com.au](mailto:aplus@netconnect.com.au) or contact us on (03) 5387 1530, fax (03) 5387 1458, PO Box 153, Natimuk, 3409.

**Bush & Beyond Guided Treks, New Zealand.** Guided walks/trekking, one-eight days for all ages and fitness levels in Kahurangi National Park. New Zealand's second-largest and most diverse park. Alpine to palm-fringed beaches. Emphasis on natural values. Includes the famous Heaphy Track, Mt Cook, Mt Aspiring, 376, Motueka, NZ. Telephone/fax 64 3 528 9054, email BushandBeyond@astra.co.nz Web [www.naturetreks.co.nz](http://www.naturetreks.co.nz)

**Challenging bushwalks.** Small groups explore remote wilderness areas within Alpine National Park. Overnight backpacking or easier day walks. Local guides provide quality environmental interpretation. Cobberas Range, Mt Feather-top, Buchan headwaters wilderness, Errinundra Plateau and more. Gippsland High Country Tours, PO Box 69, Bruthen, Vic 3885. Phone 03 5157 5556.

**Coral Sea Kayaking—** paddling to uninhabited tropical islands in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. From three day trips to our seven day Hinchinbrook Island Wilderness Expedition. We can show you the best sea kayaking in tropical north Queensland. Sea kayak trips led by professionals. Sea kayak hire is available for experienced paddlers. PO Box 292, Mission Beach, Qld 4852. Phone/fax +61 7 4068 9154, email coralseakayaking@bigpond.com Web site [www.coralseakayaking.com](http://www.coralseakayaking.com)

**Every Adventure.** Specialising in alpine/rockclimbing day trips. Phone (03) 9830 6146 or 0411 630 210, email info@everyadventure.com.au www.everyadventure.com.au

**Guy Cotter** wishes to announce that he is no longer a partner in Mt Aspiring Guides

and would like to wish Nick, Paul and Martin all the best for their future. Due to increased demand Guy will be focusing entirely on his company, Adventure Consultants Ltd, and for information on Guy's expeditions or New Zealand courses and ascents, contact Adventure Consultants, PO Box 97, Wanaka, NZ. Phone +64 3 443 8711, [www.adventure.co.nz](http://www.adventure.co.nz)

**Hidden Himalaya** operating mountain biking, ski-touring and trekking trips in remote regions of the Indian Himalaya. Also offering camel/bike safaris in the Rajasthan Desert. We specialise in small groups and personal service. Contact Anna Cook, Hidden Himalaya, PO Box 247, Wanaka, NZ. Phone 64 3 443 1631, fax 64 3 443 1621, [anna@himalaya.co.nz](mailto:anna@himalaya.co.nz), [www.himalaya.co.nz](http://www.himalaya.co.nz)

**Mountain biking, cycling, trekking,** rafting, sea kayak, multiactivity adventures in Africa and New Zealand. Including Kenya, Kilimanjaro, Zanzibar, Uganda, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa and New Zealand. Contact ESCAPE ADVENTURES, +64 3 548 9929, [www.escapeadv.com](http://www.escapeadv.com), [info@escapeadv.com](mailto:info@escapeadv.com)

**Nepal treks.** October 2000–March 2001, 15-day wilderness trek, six nights hotels, 20 nights Chitwan wildlife, \$2350. October/November 2000, 21-day Everest/Gokyo Lakes camping/trek, five nights hotels,

two nights Chitwan. Ex Kathmandu \$2800. March 2001, Manaslu Circuit, 21-day trek, four nights hotels. Ex Kathmandu \$2700. March/April 2001, Mera Peak climb, 18-day trek, two nights. Ex Kathmandu \$2500. Group discounts and other treks to Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet and Sikkim also available, as well as slide presentations. Contact Lyn at Lyn Taylor's Adventure Travel ZTA 002719. Phone (02) 9997 7442 or email [linny@connect.net.au](mailto:linny@connect.net.au) [www.tayloradventure.com](http://www.tayloradventure.com)

**New Zealand**—book all guided and freedom walks, sea kayaking, horse treks and Mt Cook climbing courses. Best air fares and vehicle hire. Outdoor Travel, PO Box 286, Bright, 3741. Telephone 1800 331 582.

**New Zealand mountains with High Places.** Quality walking tours, NZ Contrasts (23 days): Abel Tasman, West Coast, Aspiring and Mt Cook, Fiordland and Tongariro plus Milford Track option. NZ Outdoors (21 days): Mountain hikes and bushwalks, kayaking, mountain biking, rafting and Mt Cook alpine crossing. Small groups. Also trips worldwide including Latin America, Iceland, Africa and Himalayas. Brochure and itineraries from High Places Ltd, PO Box 30, Nelson, NZ. Phone 64 3 540 3208, email [highpl@ts.co.nz](mailto:highpl@ts.co.nz), [www.highplaces.co.uk](http://www.highplaces.co.uk)

**New Zealand's Southern Alps...summer 2000–2001:** your New Zealand alpine guiding specialists. Our famous team of NZMGA- and UIAGM-certified

guides specifically cater to your skill level and aspirations. Operating throughout the Mt Aspiring, Fiordland and Mt Cook National Parks. Courses at all levels, include seven-day Mountain Skills; ten-day Alpine Style; six, eight- and ten-day Private Instruction Mountaineering. South America's Cordillera Blanca (Peru) in 2001. Guided ascents of NZ's classic peaks and a new route for Mt Cook/Aoraki. Also offering Malte Brun, Mt Tasman, Tutuko. Grand traverses: Torres–Tasman, three peaks of Mt Cook, SE Ridge of Tutuko. Heli-hiking at our Black Peak hut. Our Web site has great photos and information. PO Box 345, Lake Wanaka 9192, New Zealand. Telephone +64 3 443 9422, fax +64 3 443 8589, email [aspguide@xtra.co.nz](mailto:aspguide@xtra.co.nz), <http://www.MtAspiringGuides.co.nz>

**Off the Beaten Treks.** Small groups only, exploring the remote and beautiful Himalayas. Fully escorted treks to suit all levels. Phone now for our brochure: (02) 9982 9252. Email [info@offthebeatenreks.com](mailto:info@offthebeatenreks.com), [www.offthebeatenreks.com.au](http://www.offthebeatenreks.com.au)

**Rafting.** Nymboidea River four days/three nights; also one- and two-day trips available. Excellent rafting through the spectacular gorges of the Nymboi-Binderay National Park. Available all year. Gwydir River two-day trips also available November to February. Wildwater Adventures, Coffs Harbour, (02) 6653 3500.

**Rafting Guides Training Course.** Course fully accredited by NSW Waterways Authority. Six days/five nights, Nymboidea or Gwydir Rivers, northern NSW. Courses available November/December. Wildwater Adventures, Coffs Harbour. (02) 6653 3500.

**Sea kayaking adventures in Fiji.** Australia, Antarctica and the high Arctic. Fully catered, expedition-style adventures in both the tropical and polar worlds, featuring small groups, diverse cultures, remote destinations and very experienced guides. Contact Southern Sea Ventures for our 2000 brochure. Phone (02) 9999 0541, fax (02) 9999 1357, email [cventures@tpg.com.au](mailto:cventures@tpg.com.au), [www.southernseaventures.com](http://www.southernseaventures.com)

**The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.** An exciting adventure- and personal challenge programme for those aged 14–25. Use your outdoors activities as part of your Bronze, Silver or Gold. Details: phone (03) 9412 6685.

**Trek Nepal** at affordable prices with experienced Australian guides (for example, 17 days, December, \$2985). Also India, Africa, Vietnam. Ask for Hans or Lynda at Onda Travel, phone 021A003055, ABN 91 003 873 130. Phone (02) 9547 2155 or (02) 9661 8928 (ah).

**Trek with Australian/ Sherpa team** into the heart and soul of Nepal. Experience sunrise over the Himalayas,

shaman blessing ceremonies and glacier walks. Small groups only. Call Mingmar & Marilynne Sherpa of Om Trek on (03) 9781 1280 or <http://travelto/kathmandu> In association with Cook & Cook Hobbs, Licence 31957.

**Wilderness First Aid Consultants.** Do you take groups into remote or wilderness environments? Do you have adequate first aid skills? We offer two great courses, Australia-wide. Contact us for details: PO Box 917, Lindabyne, NSW 2627. Fax/phone (02) 6457 2339, email [wfac@wfac.aust.com](mailto:wfac@wfac.aust.com)

**www.mtcook.com** New Zealand mountaineering and ski-mountaineering with the experts. Southern Alps Guiding. We still offer the best personalised service on alpine instruction, guided ascents, ski-mountaineering and specialist courses. UIAGM/NZMGA-certified guides. Contact Charlie Hobbs or Dave McKinley, 64 3 435 0890, fax 64 3 326 7518. PO Box 15, Twizel, Mt Cook region, New Zealand. [www.mtcook.com](http://www.mtcook.com)

**Excellent quality professional skills courses:** high ropes, vertical rescue, facilitation skills, all abilities, reptile handling, ski tour guides, winter skills and more! Nationally accredited training. Contact Vertical Innovations on (02) 9979 6650, fax (02) 9979 6505, email [info@vertical.com.au](mailto:info@vertical.com.au), [www.vertical.com.au](http://www.vertical.com.au)



## Outdoor Instructor Training Diploma of Recreation (Outdoor Leadership)

For a challenging career working with young people, live and train in the outdoors with leaders in the field. Swinburne TAFE is offering a 2-year Diploma Course, with the option of exiting after 1 year with Certificate IV.

The course includes training in:

- Leadership
- Environmental Education
- Equipment Care and Knowledge
- Canoeing and Kayaking
- Communication Skills
- Rockclimbing
- Nordic Skiing
- In-field Experience
- Rafting
- Philosophy of Outdoor Education
- First Aid
- Bushwalking

This program is fully accredited to National Competency standards and is offered to mature-age applicants. All training equipment, except clothing, is provided and the course is Austudy approved. Successful completion of the Diploma provides graduates with credits and the opportunity to articulate into the Bachelor of Education (Outdoor Education) at Victoria University.

Places are limited. Enrolments are being taken for July 2000 and February 2001 intakes. Enquire now!

**For further information:**

TAFE School of Social Sciences  
[www.swin.edu.au](http://www.swin.edu.au)

**Call: (03) 9231 6682**

**SWINBURNE**  
UNIVERSITY OF  
TECHNOLOGY  
TAFE

THE  
**OUTDOOR**  
EDUCATION GROUP





*Solid rock...or heavy metal? The sheen and lustre of this gorge in Karijini National Park, Western Australia, took our fancy. The photographer, Graham Jay, is the winner of the Wild-Nikon Photo Competition 2000.*

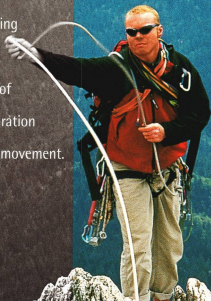
---

Wild welcomes slides for this page; payment is at our standard rate. Send them to the Editor, Wild, PO Box 415, Prahran, Vic 3181.



# STOP. the WINDchill factor!

WINDSTOPPER® fabrics have revolutionised the way we view the perfect layered clothing system. Garments made from WINDSTOPPER® fabric give you absolute wind protection with outstanding breathability and provide the perfect combination of insulation, comfort, integration and dynamic freedom of movement.



The Mountain Designs range of WINDSTOPPER® garments are technically constructed to allow top performance during trekking, skiing, boarding, climbing and all other active mountain sports. Eliminate the need for bulky clothing to keep warm... get into WINDSTOPPER® fabric garments from Mountain Designs.



**JETSTREAM**



**ALPINE**



**BREEZE**

Available at all Mountain Designs stores:

<http://www.mountaindesigns.com>

Adelaide • Albury • Armidale • Brisbane • Box Hill • Bunbury • Canberra • Claremont • Collingwood • Devonport • Fortitude Valley • Fremantle • Geelong • Hawthorn • Hobart • Katoomba • Launceston • Melbourne • Miranda • Newcastle • Perth • Rockface • Rocksports • Sydney • Toowoomba • Traralgon •



*A heritage born of the mountains...*

NAKED



WARMTH

Finally, insulation that won't weigh you down, melt you down or blow the zippers off your pack. Regulator insulation is our biggest breakthrough since Synchronia®. Three weights allow you to fine-tune your body's thermostat whether slogging up or dropping in. Patagonia – keeping you warm and dry since the earth cooled.

**R3** Warmest Regulator Fabric

- Weight: 560 grams
- Compressibility: 2.7 litres
- Warmth rating greater than 300/Original-Weight Synchronia®

**R2** Most Versatile Weight

- Weight: 404 grams
- Compressibility: 2.4 litres
- Warmth rating greater than 200/Lightweight Synchronia®

**R1** Lightest/Most Breathable

- Weight: 358 grams
- Compressibility: 1.2 litres
- Warmth rating greater than 100/Expedition-Weight Capilene®



**patagonia®**

1800 066 625 • [www.patagonia.com](http://www.patagonia.com)  
email: [patsales@ozemail.com.au](mailto:patsales@ozemail.com.au)

Trevor Dumba, Rogers Pass, B.C. Photo: Henry Georgi © Patagonia, Inc. 1999



Polartec® is a registered trade mark of Malden Mills, Inc.  
Regulator® is a trade mark of Patagonia, Inc.

EXCLUSIVELY FOR AUSTRALIA

Sydney  
497 Kent St, Sydney, NSW 2000  
Tel (02) 9264 2500 Fax (02) 9264 2505

Melbourne  
370 Little Bourke St, Melbourne, Vic 3000  
Tel (03) 9642 2266 Fax (03) 9642 2277